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THURSDAY DECEMBER 22ND, 2016

Everyone here at The GEM wishes all our readers and advertisers a very peaceful Christmas. We are now taking a festive break and will not be publishing next week, but we will be back again on Thursday, January 5.

SLIMMER RACHEL IS HALF THE WOMAN SHE WAS

– and she loves it!

A LOCAL woman has transformed her life – almost halving her bodyweight after joining a Slimming World group.

Having always felt uncomfortable with her weight, Rachel Brent finally reached rock-bottom and took steps to change her life for the better.

She joined her local Slimming World (SW) group in 2012 and has never looked back, losing nine stone in two-and-a-half years.

Through learning how to make wholesome meals and swapping high calorie snacks for low fat alternatives, she has almost halved her body weight, going from a size 22/24 to a size 10.

She said: "I had been overweight since the age of nine, but had managed to pretend to myself and others that I was happy in my skin, mainly because I'd tried dieting and always failed.

"I resigned myself to being the 'big girl' in all situations. It hurt emotionally, though, and after years of pretending I was happy, I finally 'broke'."

Rachel had started experiencing physical problems that were due to her weight, amd spoke to her SW consultant.

She embraced Slimming World's food optimising plan and the weight soon started dropping off.

"I couldn't believe I lost half a stone in my first week! What a motivating start – then by week 4, I had lost a stone and started feeling better."

After two months, Rachel's physical symptoms of knee pain, back pain, carpel tunnel numbness in both hands, pulsatile tinnitus and difficulty sleeping had all gone.

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 8)

PORTHCAWL PANTO-GOERS' £1,568 GIFT FOR CHARITIES

PHOTO by KEITH E MORGAN.

GENEROUS families enjoying the *Jack and the Beanstalk* panto at the Grand Pavilion Theatre, Porthcawl on December 11 have raised an impressive £1,568 for local charities.

Mayor of Bridgend county borough, Coun Reg Jenkins and the Mayor of Porthcawl Town, Coun Robert Lee, attended the performance, along with representatives from the Mayors' charities.

The money was raised through bucket collections, raffle and a donation made from every ticket sold for the performance.

The pantomime runs until Saturday, December 31.

***ABOVE:** The cast of Jack and the Beanstalk panto present the cheque for local charities.*

Appeal after woman (72) is injured

POLICE investigating a road traffic collision which left an elderly pedestrian seriously injured, are appealing for witnesses to come forward.

The collision, involving a 72-year-old woman and a Mazda Demio car, happened at approximately 6pm on Thursday, December 15, on Litchard Hill, Bridgend, near the junction with Bryn Llidiard.

A 28-year-old man was arrested at the scene on suspicion of driving without a licence, and was bailed pending further enquiries.

Officers would particularly like to speak to the occupants of a Nissan Juke vehicle, who stopped at the scene, but left before speaking to attending officers. The man and the woman are described as being in their early 20s.

The occupants and anyone else who may have witnessed the collision are urged to contact South Wales Police via 101, or Crimestoppers free and anonymously on 0800 555 111, quoting reference 1600483500.

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Readers' Letters

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• Letters and e-mails MUST include your FULL address and a contact telephone number.

An email address alone is not sufficient!

We reserve the right to edit all letters. We do NOT accept anonymous mail.

Problems are worsening on Tennyson Drive

Tennyson Drive, Bridgend.

ABOUT 14 months ago, I contacted BCBC about the deteriorating state of roads and pavements on Tennyson Drive, Bridgend.

Their action to date is to mark one pothole for repair.

The street is on bus route 69/69, a 15-minute service, so it is bound to undergo wear and tear.

Their answer is they can't afford it, not a priority, yet they renew the pathway near the river in Newbridge Fields and again resurface Cefn Glas Lane near the railway bridge.

Mere council taxpayers and elderly, disabled residents it seems, aren't important to this council – despite the Disability Discrimination legislation – and there are many mobility-challenged residents near us.

I have little expectation of the council doing anything – First Cymru will probably re-route services 68/69.

There are no raised bus stops for ease of access for the disabled, no tactile insets on pavements for the visually-impaired to safely cross the road, and the only attention pavements have received at all, is following gas main refurbishments.

Chris Church,
Bridgend.

Appeal to BCBC: 'DON'T FORGET THE ELDERLY'

THANK you for publishing the letter from S Powell entitled *'It's time for action over Pencoed's traffic problems'* (*The GEM December 15*).

I wholeheartedly agree with the view about parking in Pencoed. We do try to shop locally and are well served for our essential needs. I also agree there are pressures on public transport, due to parking, in the Kennedy Drive/Deri Avenue area.

I am dismayed to learn that a solution under consideration is to stop the bus service altogether!

Kennedy Drive is the new turn-around for the 62 since Mervyn Way was axed, so a yellow box should deter parking at the junction. Perhaps bus drivers could photograph offending vehicles and fixed penalty notices be issued 'in absentia'?

May I appeal to BCBC through your newspaper – please consider elderly and infirm residents and those solely dependent on public transport in Hendre Ward, to enable us to support local businesses, alleviate social isolation, and maintain the community heart of Pencoed.

Mrs Valerie Brock,
Pencoed.

Remember these Marie Curie nurses for whom Christmas means caring

CHRISTMAS is a precious time for many families, but even more so for many of your readers who may be cherishing every moment they get to spend with a loved one living with a terminal illness.

In fact, more than one million people in the UK are expected to be supporting a family member who has a terminal illness over Christmas, while trying to cope with the possibility that this could be their last together.

Caring for someone at home can be a very rewarding but also an isolating experience. People often say that they don't know where to turn to for help and don't know what support is available to them. For some, it may also be the first Christmas without a loved one.

Across the UK, from Christmas Eve to New Year's Day, Marie Curie nurses will be working over 3,500 nursing shifts, with the support of our referral centre staff who help get care to patients at home. Our Cardiff and the Vale Hospice in Penarth will also be providing expert care around-the-clock with the support of staff and volunteers.

We're also here if your readers have any questions about terminal illness, need support or just want someone to talk to. Our free Marie Curie Support Line is confidential and open for extended hours throughout the festive period for anyone affected by terminal illness.

The Marie Curie Support Line will be open for extended hours from December 24 to January 2. For more information, visit mariecurie.org.uk/help or call the Support Line on 0800 090 2309; December 25 (10am-4pm), December 26-27(11am-5pm), December 28-30 (8am-6pm), December 31 (11am-5pm), January 1 (10am-4pm), January 2 (11am-5pm).

Andrew Wilson-Mouasher,
Divisional General Manager, Marie Curie.

Charity should begin at home

ON the immigration issue, the UK is becoming overcrowded and pressurised, especially the education system, the NHS and housing.

We have hundreds, if not thousands, of our own people living on the streets, yet incomers appear to get priority accommodation and access to our benefit system.

People have been able to build mosques, though the building of Christian places of worship would not be allowed in some overseas countries.

Integration of European migrants seems to work better as they usually adapt to the British way of life; anyone who wants to come to the UK to live should respect our laws and principles.

Our country should be able to select the skilled people we need to benefit us; not give everyone free admission.

We also provide billions of pounds in overseas aid that some countries do not really need and this could be spent on our own homeless, the needy, the NHS and the elderly.

I realise this may sound selfish, but let's be realistic, our small country's interests should surely come first?

It's what our forefathers fought for. If politicians like the late Enoch Powell had been listened to many years ago, legislation would have been in place to control the situation that British people find themselves in today.

I will probably receive loads of 'flak' over these comments, but some people seem afraid of the truth.

Peter Badcock,
Barry.

With a House of Commons committee due to tour Britain to gauge public attitudes to immigration, we asked readers for their views.

Where now for UK Parliament?

I AM now 70 years of age and it is the first time people have had a chance to voice their views on this subject, without fear of being called all sorts of names.

I lived in Southall, London from 1963 until 1966, when immigration added to city problems of overcrowding, high rents and slum landlords. They say history repeats itself, and that has turned out to be correct, with slum landlords back in our towns.

I have lived in Barry for over 50 years and 2016 has turned out to be the first year that the people of Britain had the chance to air their views on quite a few subjects in a referendum.

Now the Houses of Parliament don't know what to do, and what their role will be in this new situation.

The people have said we don't want the EU and all their money-grabbing rulings. Just for a change, we would like to look after ourselves. Well, I suppose we could all live in hope.

I wait now to see how the so-called ruling classes in Parliament re-invent themselves.

Robert Darer Snr,
Barry.

What happened to the dress code?

THE GEM of December 8 shows pictures of a fundraising event for Velindre hospital. All the ladies have made a special effort to look their best – and very smart they all look.

So what has happened to the menfolk? What a rag tag bunch they look. Perhaps they have just come from a boozy night out at a rugby club.

All except three could not be bothered to put on a tie, most look as if they have slept in their shirts, and Jonathan Davies could have found one that fitted.

Do women really get turned on by middle aged men with turkey necks and grey chest hair protruding above their collars?

Come on, men, show a bit of respect for the women and smarten yourselves up.

Bin the macho – I am one of the boys – and stop being so lazy.

Gareth Williams,
Porthcawl.

'Cut back on foreign aid'

IT would appear the NHS is struggling to cope and Social Services is in meltdown – especially adult care.

I would suggest we drastically reduce or stop the £12 billion foreign aid we give to other countries and divert the money saved to look after British people who have supported this country all their lives.

This country cannot afford to look after more people; therefore, my view is to stop ALL immigration.

With regard to the planned tour by a parliamentary committee, from my understanding, the meetings will not be open to all – in fact those wishing to attend will require a specific invitation. More PR spin methinks.

Dennis Baker

Ogmore AM dons sweater for charity

OGMORE AM Huw Irranca-Davies supported Save the Children's 'Christmas Jumper Day' on December 16 by donning his favourite festive woolly and the organisation called on people to join Mr Irranca-Davies in wearing a jersey to raise money for its work.

For the latest stories and breaking news... glamorgan-gem.co.uk

HIGH TIDE TIMES

(UNTIL DECEMBER 29)

The high tides listed in this week's GEM are those in Porthcawl. It should be remembered that along the coast, high tide times will vary. For instance, in Barry, the high point will be 20 – 25 minutes later.

DATE	Time AM	Ht M	Time PM	Ht M
22 Thur	00.17	8.0	12.47	7.9
23 Fri	01.27	7.8	13.56	7.9
24 Sat	02.36	8.0	14.57	8.2
25 Sun	03.38	8.3	15.59	8.5
26 Mon	04.26	8.7	16.47	8.8
27 Tues	05.09	8.9	17.28	9.1
28 Wed	05.48	9.2	18.06	9.4
29 Thur	06.23	9.4	18.42	9.5

While The GEM makes every effort to check the accuracy of tide tables, we recommend that anyone putting out to sea, or walking in an area where they could be cut off, should check with a tide table specific to their location.

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'New medical centre will cause chaos in Newton' – WARNING

The junction close to the proposed medical centre. The traffic lights are, of course, temporary.

The existing Portway Surgery in the town centre.

REPORT by PHILIP IRWIN

WITH work on the new Porthcawl medical centre in Newton set to begin in the new year, two local residents are warning that the rush to build it could leave Bridgend County Borough Council (BCBC) facing a big bill in the future as a result.

The new health centre is intended to be a home for the existing two GP practices – the Portway and Dr Eales – both currently in the town centre.

Although there is general agreement that the surgeries need newer premises, Derek Gaynor and Peter Fenton, who live near the proposed medical centre, feel so strongly about the way that the process has been handled that they are still looking at the possibility of a judicial review.

Even if they decide not to go down that route, they are warning of traffic chaos in the future, which could land the council with a big bill for new road layouts.

Further, they think that the prosperity of the town centre will be endangered by removing one reason that people have to visit it – to pick up and cash prescriptions.

The GEM understands that the pharmacy concession at the new centre has been much sought after. It will certainly affect the profitability of pharmacies that are currently in town.

Mr Gaynor and Mr Fenton are also disappointed that all of the Porthcawl borough councillors appear to have accepted the 'there is no alternative' line that has been the stance of the Abertawe Bro Morgannwg University (ABMU) health board and BCBC.

Derek Gaynor said: "It all started with the highways department's original demand for over 100 parking spaces – which subsequently was reduced to 45 on site, and another 20 a three-minute walk away in the car park of The Globe public house – without any adequate explanation for that reduction.

"Staff might make that walk on a sunny day, but when it's a wet, stormy day, we feel sure that they will park nearer – perhaps on the Newton Nottage Road or in Austin Avenue.

"Add to that people coming down to collect a prescription and it won't be long before there are too many cars on Newton Nottage Road, and we feel it will be inevitable that BCBC will have to pick up the cost of double yellow lines.

"When that happens, people will start parking by the lake, because Hookland Road is already full, Austin Avenue will fill up quickly, and the estate alongside the medical centre has such narrow streets that anyone parking there will cause chaos."

They also feel that no account has ben taken of the influx of summer tourists, all of whom will need to go from all parts of Porthcawl to Newton if they fall ill or need a prescription.

They also feel that the decision to accept the 20 spaces at The Globe is setting a dangerous precedent for future planning policy, as developers could be able to offer that type of solution to get around lack of parking issues in the future.

However, much more expensive than double yellow lines could be the possible need for changes to road junctions. Mr Gaynor and Mr Fenton say that traffic has become much heavier in the area since Greggs and the Co-op opened in the village.

Peter Fenton said: "Traffic leaves the main road and then swings left towards the medical centre site, and there have been a number of minor bumps.

"Drivers can see traffic coming from the right from the lake end and if it is clear they accelerate down the road at speed. With the entrance to the medical centre coming up almost immediately on the right, changes to the road junction are inevitable, and BCBC will have to pick up the bill."

They point to further traffic issues at the moment, because traffic joining the main Newton Nottage Road frequently backs up because of the volume of traffic using the main road.

Another area of concern is that they feel that all of the local borough councillors have accepted the 'there is no alternative' line.

It's fair to say that on social media in Porthcawl, that is probably the majority view too – although there is also a general view that somewhere in the town centre would be better.

However, councillors have claimed that the 'owners' agreement' between the Evans families and BCBC – which covers land available for development in the town centre – is so detailed that all the land is 'spoken for'.

It's a view that Derek Gaynor finds hard to believe. He said: "I think a lot of people would favour an expansion of the existing Portway site, but we are told this is impossible.

"However, there are constant rumours that MacDonald's are looking at precisely that site for a Porthcawl restaurant. If it is already allocated under the owners' agreement, then why are MacDonald's interested?

"It will be interesting to see what does replace the Portway, when the staff move to Newton."

The status of the owners' agreement has been questioned too, because it was drawn up at a time when Tesco was willing to pay a high price to get the land (on Hillsboro Place car park) where it could open a superstore.

Since Tesco had a general cutback on its store opening programme and decided to pull out of Porthcawl, it is generally understood that no one else has been willing to pay anything close to Tesco's offer.

Mr Gaynor and Mr Fenton live close to the site, and emphasised to the GEM that they have always known that something would be put there, as planning permission was granted some time ago. A garage was proposed at one time, or it was suggested that more housing could be built.

A medical centre serving Newton, working in parallel with one in the town centre also makes sense to them, as it would be a way of planning for an increased population in the town – something that will happen when the regeneration area is built on.

Mr Gaynor concluded: "They are squeezing too big a centre into too small a site. It's a recipe for traffic chaos here in Newton."

PORTHCAWL LIFEBOAT LAUNCHES A NEW WEBSITE

PORTHCAWL RNLI lifeboat launched their new website with a special feature, 'live streaming', which will give web users the ability to watch the power of the waves crashing over the breakwater in safety and from the comfort of their home.

The website, *www.porthcawl-lifeboat.co.uk* which is linked to a webcam, will allow users to click onto 'live streaming' and view the breakwater and sea conditions live.

Other key features include real time wind speed and direction, rainfall temperature and most useful to all sea and coastal visitors, the tide times and tide height for that day.

"Our new website and webcam all came about following a substantial donation earlier this year from Porthcawl Christmas Morning Swim," said lifeboat operations manager Phil Missen.

"We decided to use the donation to provide a new website linked to a webcam that would not only provide valuable up-to-date information that could be used to make our coastline safer for those who use the sea, beaches and coastal walks, but also show some spectacular views, especially during stormy weather."

Website manager and helmsman at Porthcawl, Chris Page said: "We have had very positive feedback from people who have come across our new website even before its official launch.

"We plan to build more information on to the site in the future.

"Obviously the webcam has had many hits from throughout the UK and various locations abroad.

"Other features that are proving popular are Latest Shouts, Events and News Releases."

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GENEROUS RESIDENTS DONATE TO FARESHARE *and foodbank*

SHOPPERS in Bridgend demonstrated their generosity earlier this month, by donating 11,220 meals to foodbank charity The Trussell Trust and food redistribution charity FareShare, for Tesco's Neighbourhood Food Collection.

The Neighbourhood Food Collection runs in all Tesco stores across the country, collecting vital store cupboard-essential foods, such as rice, tea, tinned meat and UHT milk, for people in need over the festive period.

Shoppers were invited to donate food at their local Tesco store in Bridgend between December 1 and 3, to benefit local charities and people referred to foodbanks.

The food collected in Bridgend helped contribute towards the estimated total of 11,220 million meals collected for the charities by all Tesco stores nationwide this month.

Rhodri Evans of Tesco said: "We're thrilled with the huge number of food donations we've had in Bridgend, resulting in such an amazing number of meals to give to those in need this Christmas and beyond.

"It really demonstrates the generosity of the people of Bridgend. Thank you for once again supporting us, and making this collection so successful!"

Conservative takes town council ward in Bridgend

THE Welsh Conservatives have taken a seat on Bridgend Town Council after a by-election win.

Carolyn Webster is the new member for the Newcastle ward.

A mother of two who lives in Bridgend, she said she was "delighted" to have the opportunity to serve local people – including First Minister Carwyn Jones, who is a constituent!

She said: "I will be a strong Conservative voice on the town council and a strong voice for the people who live and work in the ward."

She works part-time for a small business in Pyle, and says supporting small businesses will be one of her main priorities.

"I will fight to make sure Bridgend is a vibrant town, encouraging business here and helping to make sure the conditions are right for them to stay and thrive."

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Nativity pageant comes to Maesteg

Photographs by Scenic Gallery.

THE Maesteg Llynfi Valley Council of Churches Nativity pageant was held in Market Square on Saturday, December 17.

The music for the pageant was played by the Salvation Army and the event was well attended with a cross-section of ages from babies to OAPs.

Ancient Briton's celebration for St John's and Llamau

Heidi and Clark singing carols (right), and Andrew and Liz Singer and Matthew Warren leading the singing (above).

ON December 5, Kristina and Andrew of The Ancient Briton hosted an evening of carols to celebrate the floodlighting of the tower of St John's Church in Newton and to raise money for Llamau, the charity which supports homeless young people and vulnerable young women in Wales.

This is the chosen charity of Gwyn George, the High Sheriff of Mid-Glamorgan, and he attended the event to thank all those who contributed on the night.

Cas Davies, the fundraiser for the area, talked about their work in Porthcawl where they provide nine young people with temporary accommodation, while caseworkers help them to be reunited with their families or provide ongoing support to allow them to cope with the crises befalling them.

She said the people of Porthcawl have been brilliant in giving money and essential food to Ty Cornel, the house run by Llamau.

Andrew and Liz Singer helped organise the event with Andrew leading the singing.

Matthew Warren provided the accompaniment and his nine-year-old twins Heidi and Clark started the evening by singing some carols with Beverley Smithen on the guitar.

Stalls – selling jewellery, crafts, knitwear and bric-a-brac – donated raffle prizes.

Regulars and others sang heartily and mostly in tune contributing to a lovely evening and a good start to the Christmas season.

Llamau benefited to the extent of the £440 raised on the night.

Cubs celebrate centenary at the House of Commons

Madeleine Moon (centre) with Cubs.

THE Scout Association is marking the centenary anniversary of the Cub Scout movement which began in December 1916.

As part of the celebrations the Speaker, John Bercow, welcomed Cub Scouts and MPs from across the UK to a reception in the House of Commons to celebrate and commemorate the achievements of the past 100 years.

Madeleine Moon, Labour MP for Bridgend was able to join in the fun on Wednesday afternoon.

She said: "I was very pleased to be able to attend this fantastic event supporting and celebrating the past 100 years of Cub Scouting.

"Cub Scouting is a great chance for young people to learn life skills through adventure and can offer them some amazing opportunities."

Cub Scout Khan Yildiz said: "I've had the best time at the Houses of Parliament, not many people get to come here so I feel very lucky. It's great being part of the 100 year anniversary, being in Cubs means that I get to learn loads of new skills and have fun with my friends. It was great to tell the MPs about all the things we've been doing at Cubs and show them what I've learnt."

Bryntirion hosts military briefing

BRYNTIRION Comprehensive School recently hosted a meeting of Bridgend Town Council's Military Advisory Committee.

The pupils from the school's History Society and their teacher, Andrew Shell, played a full part in the meeting.

Topics discussed included the forthcoming Bridgend Wartime Weekend to be held in Bridgend Town on June 10 next year.

The pupils came up with some very imaginative and inspiring ideas for the event, speaking with great confidence and authority.

Chair of the committee, Coun Diane Burns commented: "The school can be justly proud of the way the pupils conducted themselves during the meeting."

After the meeting the pupils took the opportunity to show councillors the school's impressive World War One memorial set up in the school foyer.

Although the school was not in existence during the Great War, it does remember those from the school's catchment area who died in that conflict.

Carrier bag tax funds footpath

SOME of the money raised by the plastic bag tax in supermarkets is being used for repairs to footpaths at a Bridgend nature reserve.

Visitors to the Craig y Parcau woodland next to Newbridge Fields in Bridgend may notice that some footpaths will be temporarily closed for the next couple of months, so that essential repairs can be carried out.

The work is being co-ordinated by Bridgend County Borough Council's countryside team after Bridgend Town Council secured money from the national 'Bags of Help' fund, which uses money raised from the 5p bag tax in Tesco stores to fund community projects.

Less than a mile from Bridgend town centre, Craig y Parcau can be found between the Ogmore river and the Broadlands estate.

Other nature reserves in Bridgend County Borough include Locks Common in Porthcawl, Tremains Wood in Brackla, Frog Pond Wood near Kenfig Hill, and Kenfig National Nature Reserve.

Guild shown ideas for Christmas!

A HAPPY Christmas to you all from Porthcawl Townswomen's Guild!

Since my last report we have enjoyed two guild meetings: the first was a demonstration of 'Ideas for Christmas' given by Judy Harvey, assisted by Jean Schofield.

Judy had a wealth of stories of her life in floristry ,which kept us in fits of laughter; not to mention the lovely Christmas floral arrangements that she and Jean showed us.

Our Christmas lunch this year was at the Grove Golf Club always a popular venue. At this month's meeting, we again stood to remember members who had died. Evelyn White was our treasurer for many years and organised great outings. But what she will be really remembered for is her beautiful, singing voice entertaining us on many occasions.

Also remembering June Walker, who started our luncheon club. They will be much missed. We have just held our Christmas party, with entertainment from Mike Boyles and an excellent tea!

Our next meeting is on January 11 at 2pm in All Saints Church hall, when David Anderson will be 'Discovering Italy'. Why not make a new year resolution to come and try us out and discover Italy, too? You will be very welcome.

DOROTHY THOMAS

Local MP joins pensioners for Christmas lunch

OGMORE Labour MP, Chris Elmore, surprised OAPs by dropping in at their annual festive dinners in Llanharan and Llanharry.

Mr Elmore said: "It's a lovely part of my job, being able to sit down to have some fantastic conversations with residents, and have a delicious Christmas dinner!

"The volunteers have done a wonderful job and both events really were superb."

Go to the The GEM for the latest stories and breaking news...
www.glamorgan-gem.co.uk

Maesteg shop wins best window prize

Photograph by Scenic Gallery.

MAESTEG Town Council held a 'Best Christmas Window Display' competition, and the winner was Elisa, who runs 'Strut your Paws' in Commercial Street, Maesteg.

The competition was open to all shops in town centre, and Mayor Coun Jen Terry is pictured presenting Elisa and Charlie (her dog) with the winning plaque.

Occasional Choirs bring in Christmas

The children's choir, Annabel, Evie, Harriet, Sian, Grace, Anna and Amalia.

AT St Michael's Church, Colwinston, the Occasional Choirs sang at two services before Christmas.

The adult choir sang a selection of Christmas music including *Infant Holy, Infant Lowly* and *Gloria in Excelsis Deo* at the Lessons and Carols service and the children's choir sang *Little Donkey*, *Zither Carol* and *Christmas Bells* at the Crib service.

The church was full on each occasion and all the congregation were very complimentary about the standard of both choirs.

The choirs have been rehearsing since October under the direction of organist and choir mistress Kath Jones and all the hard work paid off with superb performances at both services.

South Wales Police spreads Christmas cheer for children

Staff at PoW.

LOCAL businesses have teamed up with a Bridgend Neighbourhood Policing Team (NPT) to spread Christmas cheer to looked-after children and those in hospital over the Yuletide.

Officers appealed to local shops to donate items to their shoebox appeal, and were overwhelmed with gifts from Sainsbury's, Wilkinsons, Tesco, Spar, B & M, Boots and Clarkes.

Some 28 boxes were crammed full of sweets, chocolate, toys, arts and crafts made in Wales and toiletries, and carefully wrapped and labelled by officers, who then personally delivered them to the children's ward at the Princess of Wales Hospital and a local residential home.

And thanks to the generosity of the businesses involved – as well as individual employees who donated additional items out of their own pockets – officers were also able to wrap a number of gifts separately for hospital staff to give out to children who might be admitted over Christmas.

Katie Andrews, who is part of the team which organised the collection, said: "There were 11 children in the children's ward ranging in age from one to 15. They had various illnesses and some of them are likely to be in hospital at Christmas.

"We delivered 21 shoeboxes and a sack-full of individual gifts to the ward and every box also had a card from Bridgend NPT. Everyone was extremely grateful and it was lovely to see everyone smiling.

"We also visited six children at a local care home and they too were really grateful to receive their gifts. The team placed a Christmas card in each box with a small message of encouragement as we understand they are faced with obstacles and struggles that many of us could not even comprehend as adults.

"As a team, we wanted to remind them that while we all have a job to do, we do genuinely care about their welfare and hope they smile on Christmas Day."

'Double plus good' college receives Labour MP and AM

OGMORE MP Chris Elmore and AM Huw Irranca-Davies visited Bridgend College, Pencoed campus this week to congratulate the college on a historic year.

The campus, which secured the Urdd Eisteddfod for 2017, welcomed the MP and AM and showed him round the 'double excellent' awarded college.

The Ogmore MP said: "What a year for Bridgend College. Securing the Urdd Esiteddfod next year, improving their qualification rate from 77 per cent to 85 per cent and being awarded a 'double excellent' award from Estyn is truly outstanding.

Inspection body Estyn praised the further education college – which has around 13,000 students – for improving the success rates for learners.

SPACE AT THE INN...

Photos by Keith E Morgan.

FOR a few hours last Saturday, Bethlehem came to Porthcawl and set up home as the holy stable beneath the bandstand in John Street.

The enterprising and enthusiastic members of Gilgal Baptist Church, Porthcawl, under the leadership of their minister, the Reverend Martin Gillard, brought a touch of the Holy Land into our lives by dressing up in period Jewish costume of the time of Jesus and gathering around the manger to render carols and appropriate readings from the Bible.

There was even an expectant Mary on hand to give authenticity to the scene, which also came complete with two donkeys.

Even though there were members of the church dressed in sheep costumes, knowing the enthusiasm of the Gilgal congregation, I am sure that if there had been more room at the inn, they would have had real sheep, goats and cows there as well.

Maybe there was no space on the ground, but wonder of wonders, there was a 'Star of Bethlehem' way above in the sky for the occasion.

The International Space Station (ISS), which can be seen with the naked eye shining brightly in the sky, passed over the temporary little town of Bethlehem, (Porthcawl) twice on Saturday.

The ISS is the third brightest object in the sky and is easy to spot if you know where to look for it. Visible to the naked eye, it looks like a fast-moving aeroplane only flying much higher and travelling thousands of miles per hour faster.

Sightings of the ISS are possible looking out to the south east and south-south east over Swansea Bay and the Bristol Channel on the following occasions: December 28 at 7:44am; December 30 at 7:36am; December 31 at 6:44am.

An early Christmas present for Wick church

AN early Christmas present is on its way to St James, Wick, which is to receive part of a £596,000 rescue funding package from the National Churches Trust, the UK's church repair and support charity.

St James has been awarded a £8,000 National Churches Trust repair grant, to fund repairs to the roof, to ensure that the building remains usable by the congregation and wider community.

A total of 36 churches and chapels in Wales, England, Scotland and Northern Ireland, will benefit from the latest grants from the Trust.

Top of the 2016 list of funding requests received by the charity include repairs to roofs, stonework and drainage and the provision of toilets and kitchens.

Broadcaster Huw Edwards, vice-president of the National Churches Trust said:

"I'm delighted that this Christmas the future of St James, Wick, which does so much to help the local community, is being safeguarded by a National Churches Trust grant to fund repairs to the roof.

"This funding will help ensure that this historic place of worship, which dates from the 12th Century, continues to serve local people for many years to come."

"Churches and chapels are some of the UK's best-loved buildings. But their future is not guaranteed. This Christmas, when people visit a church or chapel for a carol service, or even just walk past a church on the way to do the Christmas shopping, I urge them to think about how they can help ensure that churches can remain open and in good repair.

"Everyone can make a contribution to the future of the UK's church and chapel buildings. That could be by helping to clear drains and gutters to help keep churches watertight or by keeping an eye out for vandals or thieves.

"Churches and chapels may be historic buildings, but they can be part of our future, too."

NOLTON CAROL SERVICE SHOWED THE TRUE MEANING OF CHRISTMAS

THE annual Community charity carol service was held at St Mary's Church, Nolton, Bridgend on Wednesday, December 15, with the Reverend Canon Michael Komor, Rector of St Mary's Church Nolton and area Dean, who led the service, and John Davies, the organist.

Organisers said that it was "a true and sincere readings, carols and prayer Christmas service".

Jacob Lloyd Lewis and Anne Wilkins were soloists, with Siân Davies, accompanist.

Also performing was the Llangewydd Junior School choir, with music teacher Bethan Hatch-Walker and accompanist Darryl Evans.

The Mayor of the county borough of Bridgend, Coun Reg Jenkins, local PCSOs Lisa Moore and Heather Dobbs, Menna Davies, Emma Manaseitava, Mari Higginson, Katrin and Ffion Higginson, Dr Sylvia Fowler, Mari Major and Hopkin Joseph were the readers. They were either Civic Charity committee members or representatives of the chosen charities.

Prayers and blessings were given by Father Michael.

It was reported to be a well-attended and supported Christmas service, which reminded everyone of the real meaning of Christmas.

The many carols sung were chosen carefully and a collection was taken for the charities during the service.

The organisers said they would like to thank Keith E Morgan for taking photographs, also a big thank you to Father Komor, and everyone who took part and attended.

The next event is a 'Post Christmas Lunch' at the Hi-Tide Inn, Porthcawl on Sunday, January 15 at 12.30pm for 1pm.

The guest speaker Chris Elmore MP.

Tickets £21; for further information and to reserve tickets contact Mari Major on 01656 651 491.

MP urges: 'use the credit union'

WITH borrowing said to be at its highest point around Christmas time, Chris Elmore MP joined staff from Bridgend lifesavers Credit Union to promote 'responsible saving and borrowing'.

The MP for Ogmore said: "Saving and using the credit union is much simpler and better for customers than using traditional methods of credit.

"The credit union means that people are much less likely to get into financial difficulties. Responsible borrowing and saving is so important. The credit union are fantastic for exactly this."

To find out more of the credit union, visit Bridgend Lifesavers website www.blscu.co .uk/.

Who wants to build what, and where?

*Mr Huw Thomas – **110 Parc Tyn y Waun, Llangynwyd, Maesteg** – Crown reduce ash tree by 30 per cent.*

*Mrs Anita Davies – **162 New Road, Porthcawl** – Proposed single storey extension.*

*Marcus Rossini – **The Ship and Castle, The Square, Porthcawl** – Repair and improve the property in accordance with the requirements of the town improvement grant scheme as implemented by BCBC.*

*Ward Jones (Bridgend) Ltd – **Land off Horsefair Road, Waterton Industrial Estate** – Approval of details for Conditions 7 and 8 of P/16/472/FUL.*

*Mr Justin Collins – **11 Cross Street, Maesteg** – Addition of second storey over existing kitchen/bathroom extension.*

*SSR Seaton Road Ltd – **Stormy West landfill site, Stormy Down, Bridgend** – Non-material amendment to P/15/312/FUL.*

*Mrs Iona Gregory – **First and second floors, 24a Dunraven Place, Bridgend** – Change of use from B1 Office use to D1 (use of premises will be private tutoring).*

*Mrs Iona Gregory – **First and second floors, 24a Dunraven Place, Bridgend** – One fascia sign above door, one protruding above fascia (hanging sign) and window film to first floor.*

*Mrs Munni Begum – **31a Market Street, Bridgend** – Change of use from taxi booking office to pizza takeaway (use class A3).*

*David Williams – **Glynogwr Lodge, Ty Pentwyn, Glynogwr, Blackmill** – Vary conditions 3 and of P/15/203/FUL.*

*David Williams – **Glynogwr Lodge, Ty Pentwyn, Glynogwr, Blackmill** – Vary condition 1 of P/15/203/FUL to allow occupation for up to 56 days in any 12 month period.*

*Mrs Joan Boon – **15 Abbey Road, Kenfig Hill** – Shower room extension to rear and ramped access arrangements.*

*Sinclair Direct – **Entrance to Hernston Retail Park off A48, Bridgend** – Non-illuminated fence mounted sign.*

*BCBC Education & Family Support – **Betws Primary School, Betws** – Approval of details for conditions 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 13, 14 and 18 of P/15/792/BCB.*

*Mr Tegryn Bevan – **48 Minffrwd Road, Pencoed, Bridgend** – Construction of a dormer extension.*

*Richard Harrison – **14 Bridgend Road, Newton, Porthcawl** – Fell one ash tree, reduce and cut back large limb of one ash tree. Cut back two ash trees.*

*Mr Vince Jordan – **'Tanma', Heol Eglwys, Pen y Fai, Bridgend** – Sui-generis mix of uses – residential and business use as a landscape contractor's and removal contractor's base.*

*John Matthews – **Unit 11, Broadlands District Centre, Bridgend** – Change of use from A1 (shops) to A3 (food and drink).*

*Gareth Thomas – **53 Garfield Avenue, Litchard, Bridgend** – Construction of pitched roof in lieu of existing flat roof to garage to 53 Garfield Avenue.*

*Persimmon Homes West Wales – **Land east of A4061 (BNDR), Coity** – Non-material amendment to P/14/464/OUT to vary condition 29 to read 'Properties alongside the northern and eastern boundaries (which border the industrial estate and vact land) shall not exceed three storeys in height.'*

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Your normal collection day Dirwnod casglu arferol		Your holiday collection day Yn ystod y gwyliau	
Mon/Llu	26.12.16	Tues/Maw	27.12.16
Tues/Maw	27.12.16	Wed/Mer	28.12.16
Wed/Mer	28.12.16	Thurs/Iau	29.12.16
Thurs/Iau	29.12.16	Fri/Gwe	30.12.16
Fri/Gwe	30.12.16	Sat/Sad	31.12.16

Collections return to normal from the week beginning Mon 2 Jan 2017.

Bydd casgliadau yn mynd yn ôl i'r drefn arferol o'r wythnos sy'n dechrau Dydd Llun 2 Ionawr 2017 ymlaen.

A green Christmas

Don't forget that you can recycle all of your Christmas food leftovers, including your turkey carcass, in your kitchen caddy. Christmas cards can be recycled by placing them in your black box for cardboard, but we can't recycle wrapping paper unfortunately.

Real Christmas trees can be recycled by taking them to the Household Recycling Centres in Tythegston, Brynmenyn Industrial Estate and Heol Ty Gwyn in Maesteg.

Nadolig Gwyrdd

Gellir hefyd ailgylchu coed Nadolig drwy fynd â nhw i Ganolfan Waterton neu un o ganolfannau casglu deunydd ailgylchu'r cartref Bwrdeistref Sirol Pen-y-bont ar Ogwr ym Maesteg, Cwm Ogwr, Llandudwg a Brynmenyn.

Gellir ailgylchu coed Nadolig go iawn trwy fynd â nhw i Ganolfannau Ailgylchu Gwastraff y Cartref yn Llandudwg, Ystâd Ddiwydiannol Brynmenyn, Ystâd Ddiwydiannol ac Heol Tŷ Gwyn Maesteg.

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I gael mwy o wybodaeth ynglŷn ag ailgylchu ym Mwrdeistref Sirol Pen-y-bont ar Ogwr, ewch i www.bridgend.gov.uk neu dilynwch ni ar Twitter @BridgendCBC

YOUR CHANCE TO SHARE THE COMMUNITY NEWS

NORTH BRIDGEND NEWS

A message for all readers in the north of Bridgend who would like to have items included in the community news columns of The GEM:
If you wish to submit reports on any social activity in this region, please contact me.
I am very approachable and will endeavour to include every newsworthy subject.

Contact details: CLIVE MITCHELL
1 Tyn-Y-Coed Close, Sarn, Bridgend CF32 9NQ
TEL: 01656 725399
email: tynycoed1@yahoo.co.uk

Aberkenfig WI

EUNICE Williams, the president, welcomed the members to the Christmas meeting.

Happy Birthday was sung to the December birthday belles. There was a 'dummy run' before putting the Christmas tree in the Wesley Centre ahead of the official opening of the Christmas bazaar on December 3.

Events for next year include: Chinese New Year at the Hi Tide, Porthcawl on Saturday, January 21, 9.30am to 3.30pm, and taster sessions of tai chi, Mandarin, origami and calligraphy. Price £20 including a Chinese themed hot buffet with British style deserts.

The Glamorgan Federation of Women's Institutes Show 2017, Rosebowl and Brecon Cup afternoon tea is on April 6. The bread demo day was a success.

Subscriptions go up to £39 in January, but please do not let this put off any ladies who would like to come and see us in the New Year.

The Laleston Link social is on Thursday, April 20 in Blandy Hall at 7pm.

The January meeting will include voting on the Resolution.

Aberkenfig and District Women's Institute meets on the second Wednesday of each month at 2pm in the Len Evans Centre, Heol Persondy, Aberkenfig.

Visitors and new members are made very welcome. There is always a speaker or an event, a cup of tea and a chance to make new friends or revive old friendships.

For further information call Dilys on 01656 725399 or visit www.cobwebs.co.uk or www.facebook.com/Aberkenfigwomensinstitute.

Brackla Community Chorus

THE choir welcomes new members. The rehearsals resume on Wednesday, January 11 from 7pm to 9pm at Brackla Community Centre. For further information telephone Roger Jones the secretary on 01656 861095.

St Theodore's Church, High Street, Kenfig Hill

THE following services will be held over the Christmas period in the church.

On Christmas Eve there is a family crib service at 4pm, and a midnight Mass at 11.30pm.

Christmas Day a Eucharist service will be held at 10am.

On Sunday, January 1 it will be 'the naming of Jesus' at 10am.

Communities First postcode areas

ALL residents from the above areas are invited to an accredited emergency first aid course at Ynysawdre community centre on Thursday, January 12 from 9.15am to 3pm, with lunch provided.

This is an opportunity to gain the essential skills needed to give safe, prompt and effective first aid in an emergency situation. Advance booking required by calling Jenny, on 01656 643693 / 07815 525017.

Tondu Primary School

MRS Pilcher would like to thank all the members of staff for the excellent work they have carried out in the Christmas term. The Christmas concerts have been well performed, my wife and I attended one – *Oliver!* I cannot praise the children enough; they were great.

The Parent Teachers Association has raised an amazing amount of money, this term the total was £3,191.95. This is going to be used to buy resources for the foundation phase outdoor learning area, and the children are pleased with the support they are receiving.

The school says goodbye to Mrs Blake, its learning support officer for 'literacy and numeracy interventions'.

She has been a loyal and respected colleague for 12 years and the school will miss her, and wishes her every success in her new job and looks forward to hearing of her success.

The children will return to school on January 4 at 9am (KS2), 9:15am (FP on Meadow Street) and 9:25am (FP on Heol Persondy). Breakfast clubs on both sites will run between 8:10am and 8:40am.

Well done to those pupils who took part in the Newcastle Higher Community Council Christmas Card competition. Ben Thomas won the overall prize across the local schools and his card will now be printed for next Christmas.

The following children won prizes: Foundation phase first prize Ieuan Morgan, second Cerys Griffiths, third Sophie James.

Key Stage 2 first prize Ben Thomas, second Leila Carlyon, third Lexie James.

Wesley Methodist Church, Tondu

ON Christmas Eve there is a Christingle service at 5pm. Christmas Day, the service will be at 10am.

Saint David's Church, Betws

ON Christmas Eve at 4pm, there will be a Christingle service with the children of Betws Primary School. Everyone is welcome.

On Christmas Day there is the Eucharist service at 10am.

Saint John's Church, Aberkenfig

A EUCHARIST service takes place at 9am on Christmas Day, and on January 1 there will be a joint parish service.

Saint Bride's Church, Llansantffraid

CHRISTMAS Eve there will be a Midnight Mass starting at 11.30pm.

Sarn Community Life Centre

ON December 16 St Bride's Minor civic department held a carol service at 7pm with the Tenovus choir. My wife and I attended the service, and we really enjoyed it. The Tenovus choir was excellent and the variety of music it sang was so accomplished.

Tenovus choir rehearses on Monday evenings at Tabernacle Chapel, Derwen Road, Bridgend and welcomes new members. The choir is willing to perform in concerts throughout the Bridgend area, to raise money for research into cancer care.

Young Women's Trust awards backed by MP

MADELEINE MOON, MP for Bridgend, is calling on residents in the Bridgend constituency to nominate a hard-working young woman they know for a Young Women's Trust award.

The awards will recognise young women who have overcome barriers like a lack of confidence or juggling childcare to succeed at the start of their careers.

"Most awards ceremonies celebrate those at the very top of their profession. But Young Women's Trust wants to shine a light on women who are working hard and often overlooked," the MP said.

"Despite girls on average doing better at school, there are still more young women out of work and stuck in low-paid jobs than men: 240 young people in the Bridgend constituency are currently unemployed and many more are on zero hours contracts. Gender stereotypes often encourage women into lower-paid sectors and a lack of flexible work can make it difficult to balance jobs with caring responsibilities."

The awards will highlight how challenging it is for many young women who are starting out in the world of work and reward their determination.

The Influencer Award will recognise a young woman who uses her voice to speak up for others. The Exceptional Apprentice Award is for a young woman who has achieved a lot, either personally or professionally, in her apprenticeship. The Conqueror Award will celebrate a young woman who has overcome personal challenges while starting her career path. Nominations are now open.

Mrs Moon went on: "We have an exceptional amount of talent in the Bridgend constituency but getting a foot in the door is still really tough for young women. They face challenges like a lack of self-confidence or having to juggle childcare with work or studies. It can take real determination to succeed."

"The Young Women's Trust awards are a great way to recognise the young women who are overcoming those barriers to find work and training opportunities. I'd really encourage people to nominate someone they know, so we can make sure our local young women get the recognition they deserve."

Nominations are open until January 1, 2017. To make a nomination, go to http://www.youngwomenstrust.org/ywtawards. The awards ceremony will take place in London on February 21.

Tondu Youth receive local sponsorship

Tondu RFC would like to thank Kendall Developments for their sponsorship of the youth side, pictured above. Alongside them are Craig Kendall of Kendall Developments and Tondu chairman Graham Thomas. Picture by Gareth Anthony.

'Incensed! HOSPITAL CAR PARK FINES HIT RESIDENTS

by GEM REPORTER

RESIDENTS in Barry have contacted The GEM claiming unjust parking fines have been issued at the local hospital.

A new system is in operation in which drivers visiting the hospital are meant to punch in their car registration number at the reception.

The health board says the new system is to put patients and genuine visitors first.

The new system is operated by a company called Parking Eye. People are in danger of being fined if they fail to log in their registration number.

A camera records people driving in and out of the car park.

Mr Ernest Roach took his wife for an appointment at the hospital and ended up paying a £40 fine when he had only been in the hospital for just over half and hour.

He said he didn't enter his registration number because he thought people were only charged if they stayed longer than four hours.

"On Tuesday, December 6, I arrived at the hospital and was unable to use the disabled parking area so I had to use the main car park.

"I thought parking was free for four hours. We were there for just 42 minutes – the camera records you going in and out of the car park – and I got a fine of £70. If you pay it quickly, it is reduced so I sent a cheque for £40, but I am appealing.

"The fine was sent by Parking Eye in Chorley."

Retired consultant Dr Cath Staff contacted The GEM to emphasise that many of those attending the hospital were elderly and people with chronic conditions who are used to parking their car and walking straight into the hospital.

One of her neighbours received a letter informing him he was being fined.

"They (the letters) are aggressive and targeting groups of people who are elderly and vulnerable."

Dr Staff said she understood from a member of staff at the hospital that when the new system was introduced notices were small, but new, larger ones have now been erected.

She plans to write to Cardiff and Vale Health Board and would like local GP surgeries to warn people that if they go up to Barry Hospital for an appointment there is a new parking system in operation.

Mrs Rosemary Stephenson told The GEM that she was "incensed" when friends of hers who were pensioners had been fined.

She takes her husband to the hospital for blood tests because he is diabetic.

"One of my friends put her number in and was still reported, so maybe there is an 'enter' button people are not aware of. How can an elderly person pay a £70 fine when they are on a state pension?"

The GEM approached the health board and put patients' concerns to it.

Geoff Walsh, director of capital estates and planning for Cardiff and Vale University Health Board, explained the new system was designed to help genuine visitors.

"These measures have been introduced so that those who need to visit the hospital can do so easily and those using it inappropriately as a car park for shopping in town are discouraged from such behaviour. It is very much about putting patients and visitors first.

"We have been listening to patients, visitors and staff and taking action in response to their feedback such as improving the signage.

"If anyone feels they have been issued with a penalty charge notice inappropriately then we ask them to lodge an appeal as outlined on the notice."

Visitors should be aware that parking is free, but all vehicles are required to be registered when on site. Failure will result in a 'penalty charge notice' being triggered.

RACHEL'S SLIMMING SUCCESS!

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Slimming World advocates healthy home-cooking from scratch using fresh ingredients and includes healthy portions of milk or cheese and bread or cereal every day to ensure a balanced diet.

Rachel said: "No foods are banned and members are encouraged to have 'a little of what they fancy' whenever they want – as long as it is accounted for, and freedom from weighing or measuring everything you eat makes Slimming World the UKs favourite weight loss programme."

Rachel has made such a positive change to her life she has felt inspired to help others to do the same by becoming a Slimming World consultant herself.

Her0 new group has its first meeting on January 19, on Thursday evenings at 7.30pm in the Bayside Room, The Hi Tide, Porthcawl, CF36 5BT, and she can be contacted on 07779 956233.

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Don't go off the rails this Christmas

CHRISTMAS partygoers across Wales and the borders are being advised to take extra care this festive season after Network Rail revealed a 25 per cent increase in alcohol-related incidents across the UK rail network in December, compared to the beginning of the year.

As a result Network Rail, British Transport Police and RSSB have joined forces to urge partygoers to take extra care when travelling on or around the railway.

Stewart McIlroy, the community safety manager at Network Rail Wales, said: "The majority will have a few drinks over the festive season and we do not want anyone's festive spirit being ruined by an incident that could have been prevented. The railway can be a dangerous place and people can take unnecessary risks.

Taking risks at level crossings, using the track as a shortcut or running across the platform onto trains, could result in serious life threatening injuries or worse. We are asking passengers and those that live near the railway to keep a clear head and enjoy a safe festive season."

Data collected by the Rail Safety Standards Board (RSSB) over the last 10 years also shows that on average, in the UK, there are more incidents reported involving intoxication in December than any other month.

There are over 1,000 level crossings in Wales and Network Rail is issuing a warning to those who live near or may be out near these level crossings. During this time of year people may be visiting family and friends in areas they are unfamiliar with, and with many crossings located within a mile of pubs and clubs it is important that people take extra care and remain aware of their surroundings.

Passengers should also be careful when around the platform edge after having a drink, with 25 people killed in the UK due to alcohol related incidents and a further 82 people seriously injured over the last 10 years.

Of over 4,000 alcohol related incidents reported over the past five years, almost half (44 per cent) of all incidents reported last winter involved alcohol. Nearly 250 incidents were recorded at level crossings last December and passengers boarding trains were involved in 42 alcohol related accidents in the last five years. Officers from British Transport Police are stepping up patrols at stations across Wales.

There will be increased high-visibility patrols, particularly during weekends and enhanced presence on the barriers at the busiest stations, including in this region, with support from Arriva Trains Wales barrier staff until late.

Anyone who is considered too drunk to travel will be refused access to a station.

Chief Inspector Mark Cleland from British Transport Police Wales said: "Our priority is to make sure everyone gets to their destination safely and securely. You can expect to see our officers out on the network helping people to enjoy the festivities safely and encouraging them to think about how alcohol can affect the way they behave and the effect this has on other passengers.

"We are asking you to keep a clear head. Think about what you would do and how you would behave if you were sober. There is no excuse for spoiling other people's journeys or behaving any differently because you've drunk alcohol. We want you to have fun but it's more important to get where you're going safely."

Merched y Wawr get-together for Christmas service

CYNHALIWYD Gwasanaeth Nadolig Merched y Wawr y De Ddwyrain yng nghapel Bethesda, Tŷ Du, Casnewydd gan mai cangen Casnewydd oedd yn trefnu'r digwyddiad eleni.

Aeth nifer dda ohonom o gangen Y Bont-faen.

Crewyd awyrgylch hyfryd trwy raglen amrywiol o ganu, adrodd, actio a darllen gan wahanol ganghennau ynghyd â chanu carolau gyda'n gilydd. Rhoddodd tair o'n haelodau ni – Glenys Bellin, Lyn Guy ac Eleri Rogers gyflwyniad trawiadol o gerdd fodern 'Wyddoch chi beth roesom ni Iddo?'

Wedi'r gwasanaeth cawsom gyfle i sgwrsio dros baned a chacennau carte.

Teimlwn bob blwyddyn fod y noson yn gychwyn teilwng i ddathliadau'r Nadolig.

THE Christmas service of south-east Wales Merched y Wawr was held at Bethesda Chapel, Rogerstone, as the Newport branch was hosting the event this year.

A number of Cowbridge members attended.

A pleasant atmosphere was created as different branches presented a varied programme of song, verse and sketches, as well as singing carols together.

Three of our members – Glenys Bellin, Lyn Guy and Eleri Rogers gave a lively rendition of a modern Welsh poem 'Do you know what we gave Him?'

After the service, we chatted over a cuppa and homemade cakes.

We feel, every year, that the evening is a fitting start to the Christmas celebrations.

MARY CRANDON

Get festive, not fined!

THE South Wales Police and Crime Commissioner, Alun Michael, has urged festive party goers to 'drink less and enjoy more'.

He said: "The Drink Less, Enjoy More campaign forms a major part of the joint Police and Crime Reduction Plan. Established for nearly two years, the campaign has proved a great way of educating the public and night time economy staff whilst ensuring the safety of the community of South Wales.

"The campaign has led the way to many exciting developments to protect the vulnerable and prevent crime.

Assistant Chief Constable, South Wales Police, Richard Lewis, said: "The festive period is a time to celebrate. The #DrinkLessEnjoyMore campaign has been a great resource for officers and our colleagues within licensing, by illustrating to the public the consequences of drinking too much and the negative impact it can have on a person's behaviour.

"South Wales is a fantastic place to live, work and celebrate. South Wales Police will continue to work with its partners to promote the message of 'drink less, enjoy more' over the festive period and throughout the year."

Climate change protest at Aberthaw Power Station

ABERTHAW Power Station was blockaded on Monday, December 12, by campaigners protesting over air pollution and climate change.

Activists formed a blockade with tripods, a giant ashtray and banners saying 'Fossil Fuels – Time to Quit' and 'Climate Change has a Death Toll' to prevent vehicles from entering and exiting the power station.

The UK Government recently lost a European Court of Justice ruling which found Aberthaw in breach of European air quality laws.

The protest comes as the UK Government holds a consultation on the planned phase-out of unabated coal by 2025, which campaigners claim is far too slow a timeline to meet climate goals.

A year ago an historic climate deal was signed in Paris – on December 12, 2015.

Sarah Joliffe from campaign group Reclaim the Power, claimed: "Exactly a year on from the climate agreement in Paris, the UK Government is still undermining its own commitments by subsidising fossil fuels, instead of keeping them in the ground."

Suspended sentence for man who breached animal banning order in Bridgend and the Vale

A LOCAL Welsh cob dealer who breached an order banning him from owning horses, has again been brought before the courts.

Thomas Tony Price was arrested on August 16, 2016, as part of Operation Violet Vulcan, after a multi-agency investigation found he had breached an Animal Disqualification Order (ADO) imposed in 2013, which banned him from having any involvement in the ownership or possession of horses for five years.

The order had been imposed alongside an eight-month prison sentence in 2013, and an order to pay almost £44,500 in costs, for 57 animal welfare offence and seven breaches of an antisocial behaviour.

Following his most recent arrest, a total of 70 horses were seized by Shared Regulatory Services during the operation.

Investigating officers found that, despite the disqualification imposed on him, 52-year-old Price continued to deal with horses on at least 11 separate occasions.

At Cardiff Magistrates' Court, Price pleaded guilty to breaching the ADO and was sentenced to eight weeks in prison, suspended for two years. The court also issued an injunction to protect a family in a neighbouring farm who had fallen victim to Price's action.

On the back of the conviction, South Wales Police were successful in applying to the courts for a Criminal Behaviour Order (CBO).

Under the conditions of the order, Price will be prohibited from:

- Remaining on private land in the Vale and the borough of Bridgend, after having been refused permission by the land owner or occupier.
- Driving or being a passenger in any vehicle towing or transporting horses, until expiry of the Disqualification Order imposed on July 5, 2013.
- Participating in or assisting with the herding or removal of horses from public or private land, until expiry of the Disqualification Order.
- Without reasonable excuse, being within 50 metres of horses being herded or removed to, or from public or private land, save for the defendant's own land until expiry of the Disqualification Order.

Inspector Gary Smart said: "This was a complex and lengthy investigation, which involved a number of partner agencies including the Vale Council and the RSPCA.

"Our investigation proved that Thomas Price had persisted in 'fly grazing' in various locations throughout the Vale and Bridgend, without permission of the landowners and despite the ADO imposed him.

"Both those dealing with Mr Price, and the numerous horses in his possession needed protection from this man, which is why we were pleased our application for a CBO was successful

"We will continue to monitor Mr Price's activity while he is subject to these orders, and will take further action should he be found not to be complying with the conditions.

"We would urge the public to let us know via 101 if they suspect this man is breaching any of the conditions imposed on him."

Mark Goulding, investigating and wildlife crime officer, said: "During the investigation, evidencing the breaches of this particular legislation was a challenge, and demanded support from our partner agencies and the wider community. We would like to thank everybody involved."

Thomas Tony Price.

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Keeping the lights on at Christmas

AS families across the nation enjoy festivities over Christmas and the New Year, staff at Aberthaw Power Station will be working around the clock, powering Welsh homes to ensure the Christmas lights keep on twinkling and the TV Christmas specials keep on running!

Around 200 people work at the coal-fired power station, which produces enough electricity to meet the needs of 1.5 million people – equivalent to five cities the size of Cardiff.

Generating electricity is a 24/7 operation, and the festive period is no exception. The team at Aberthaw will be working throughout Christmas and the New Year.

Station manager Richard Little said: "Most people think of the emergency services working across Christmas and New Year, who should rightly be honoured as they provide an invaluable role.

"However, spare a thought for the power station, grid and network men and women.

"Working over Christmas is 'business-as-usual' for many of our staff."

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As iconic year ends, challenging times ahead for Britain

by CHRIS ELMORE

FIRSTLY, before I start my main column, I hope that everyone has a wonderful Christmas and I hope you all enjoy the New Year's festivities.

The old one is coming to an end, a year which has had some iconic moments, to say the least – the seemingly endless number of celebrity deaths, the Welsh Assembly election and the Referendum, which saw the UK vote to leave the EU.

All news stories that have implications on our lives and all will be what 2016 is remembered for, one way or another.

During 2016, I opened a new foodbank in the constituency (something you may have read in a previous edition of The GEM).

Obviously to open a service that is needed is a pleasure. The difficulty, however, was that a foodbank is needed in the community at all.

Something isn't working in our society if people are unable to feed themselves. Something isn't working when these foodbanks are a lifeline to so many people.

Something needs to change and we should all, as compassionate humans, be ashamed that these institutions exist.

That said, they are needed, and I'm so grateful and thankful that these volunteers give up so much of Htheir time to help those most vulnerable.

Looking forward – 2017 has many challenges. The main one that springs to mind is that of what a Brexit Britain looks like. I led a Westminster Hall debate on the impact of leaving the EU on businesses in Wales.

I was disappointed that the UK Government refused to answer on whether they would guarantee to replace EU funding that has not yet been underwritten by the Treasury.

No did I get an answer on what steps will be taken to ensure there is not a training shortage in Wales, once we've left the EU.

These are guarantees businesses need to plan for the future and I hope the Government becomes more transparent about it. I'm not expecting a blow-by-blow account to the Brexit negotiations; however, I do expect transparency on something so important.

Over the Christmas period, my office will be closed. Messages will be picked up throughout and we will return on January 3. Any issues, please call 01656 860034. I also have an emergency contact list on my website www.chriselmore.co.uk if you need specific advice, or have an emergency.

I wish all constituents a peaceful and healthy new year.

Mince pies and a thank you from the Mayor

THE Mayor of the Vale of Glamorgan, Coun Stuart Egan, with consort Nigel Gibbs, paid a visit to Penarth sorting office.

Bearing a gift of mince pies, the Mayor thanked staff for their work throughout the year – and especially at Christmas.

There were no soggy bottoms at the recent charity Bake Off, where the Mayor (a trained chef) was the judge! The cakes were later sold at the Mayor's coffee morning – raising £150 for his charities.

Mayor's consort Nigel Gibbs, Mark Ellis (Bake Off, second place), Paula Westall (third place), Julie Brown (first) with the Mayor, Coun Stuart Egan.

Local musicians are hoping for their big break

Jack Ellis.

Joel Alex.

THREE local artists are hoping to make their mark on the music industry after embarking on a council-supported scheme.

Jack Ellis and Joel Alex, both from the county, and Rebecca Hurn from Bridgend – are part of the 'Forté Project' along with eight other 16 – 25 year-olds from south Wales, including Bridgend and the Vale.

The Forté project is a new music development programme, which aims to uncover and support artists emerging from south Wales.

They are given support over 12 months, which includes:

- industry mentors to help guide and support them;
- access to key networking opportunities with industry professionals providing them with sound advice relating to key areas of their development;
- increased artist profile through high profile live performances, audience development and marketing strategies;
- recording opportunities to explore new material with professional studio facilities and technicians.

Jack Ellis, 25, from Rhoose, has already made a number of high-profile appearances, but wants some practical skills on the business side of the industry.

"I went solo about 18 months ago and it's been a pretty manic first year or so. I've started recording my first EP," he said.

My dad 'released' my first single before I was ready and he sent a song to Dermot O'Leary, who played it on his Radio 2 show and then a couple of months later I did a session for him.

"It wasn't even the song I planned to release first, but I have to thank my old man because it got my name out there."

"I'm really excited about the Forté project. It'll be great to be around other artists, while I really need some help on the business side of things."

'Remember that a dog is for life' – Dogs Trust urges

ABOVE: Neddy the terrier with his canine carer Becca Mullins.

AS the festive season nears, Dogs Trust Bridgend asks people to remember its famous slogan '*A Dog Is For Life, Not Just For Christmas*' with the staff braced for an influx of abandoned dogs over the Christmas period.

"Unfortunately, the famous Dogs Trust slogan remains as relevant today as it was when it was first coined 38 years ago. Time and again the charity sees a flurry of dogs abandoned over Christmas when the appeal of a cute puppy wears thin," said Angela Wetherall, rehoming centre manager.

"There is no denying that we're a nation of animal lovers, but sadly, sometimes that can blind people and they may rush into getting a dog, often without ample research or even rushing into a last minute online purchase. A dog can be such a rewarding addition to any family, but they do come with long-term responsibilities that will have a lasting impact on their new owner's life.

"As always, we are reminding everyone that a dog is for life, not just for Christmas, and, if you are thinking about getting a dog in 2017, to consider rehoming a rescue dog."

As well as providing round-the-clock care for new arrivals, the team at Dogs Trust Bridgend will be spending their Christmas Day looking after the 80 homeless hounds already at the centre, ensuring they can enjoy the Christmas festivities as much as everybody else.

Anyone interested in visiting Dogs Trust Bridgend or rehoming a dog can call 0300 303 0292, or visit www.dogstrust.org.uk

VOLUNTEER MARTIN HAD A WONDERFUL ZEST FOR LIFE

THE Glamorgan Voluntary Services are grieving the untimely death of dedicated volunteer, Martin Vick.

It's not hard to describe what Martin was to GVS. He was full of life and joy, which was hugely infectious to the team. He had a wonderful zest for life and he was almost certainly born with a smile on his face.

He volunteered at GVS once a week, finding time among all his other commitments to put in an efficient and effective shift whilst bringing happiness to the office for that day each week.

He loved music and entertained us with his singing and knowledge of music. He had a passion for football, and talked with enthusiasm about what his squad would be if he was manager.

Martin led a very active life. He was part of the Hi-Jinx theatre company and performed all over Europe. Martin was a gymnast and travelled to the USA, representing the UK, winning three gold and four silver medals in the World Championships.

He later went on to volunteer for Penarth Gymnastics Club with the coaches, helping to train young gymnasts.

Martin was a true gentleman who will surely be missed by everyone who was fortunate enough to meet him. Thank you, Martin, from the GVS team.

MARK STILLMAN

Tenovus praise for volunteers

AS 2016 draws to a close, I'd like to take some time to thank all 1,900 volunteers who generously give so much time to Tenovus Cancer Care across Wales.

In the last year, our volunteers have given an incredible 260,000 hours to fundraising, helping in shops, in our warehouse and at events, helping in one of our offices, supporting our health and wellbeing campaigns, advising on research funding, championing our Sing with Us choirs, lending a hand to the charity's cancer support advisors – and manning our free support line to help anyone affected by cancer.

We couldn't do what we do without our amazing volunteers. We're really very grateful to them, and we're looking forward to a fantastic 2017!

Claudia McVie,
Chief Executive,
Tenovus Cancer Care,
Cardiff.

Boxing Day beach clean

THE Friends of Barry Beaches will hold their annual Boxing Day beach clean at The Knap.

The clean-up starts at 2.30pm and the litter pick will finish with mulled wine and mince pies for the volunteers to celebrate Christmas.

Volunteers should meet at The Knap car park, Litter pickers and bags will be provided; wear suitable clothes and footwear. Children are always welcome, accompanied by an adult.

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JANUARY
1st - Closed • 2nd - Closed
3rd - 11.45 - 1.30pm 4.45 - 9pm

Neddy loves his long walks

Dogs Trust Bridgend's Dog of the Week is Neddy, a six-year-old Jack Russell terrier-cross.

Neddy is small but with bags of energy; he loves his long walks where he can run off lead. He can be a little selective about which dogs he socialises with and prefers quieter dogs!

Neddy's ideal forever home will need to be active and have children over 14 years old, if you love terriers you will love Neddy!

For further information, call 01656 725219, or visit the Dogs Trust website.

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Burglary search warrant uncovers cross-county cannabis operation

POLICE investigating a potential burglary uncovered a cannabis set-up operation spanning Barry, Dinas Powys and Aberdare.

After responding to concerns about a property in Barry on November 27 officers from Barry's policing priority team discovered a large amount of cannabis and documents linking two people to another address in Aberdare.

Acting on the intelligence found, a search warrant was subsequently executed at in Aberdare, where a large growing tent containing 32 cannabis plants and associated hydroponic equipment was discovered in one of the bedrooms. The plants – which have an estimated value of up to £35,000 – were seized along with other evidence and documentation further linking the existing two suspects to the crime.

A second warrant was then executed that day under the Misuse of Drugs Act at an address in Dinas Powys.

A 26-year-old man was arrested on suspicion of money laundering and the production of cannabis, after officers seized more cannabis, mobile phones and around £18,000 in cash.

Christmas presents, a BMW and three motorcycles were also seized under the Proceeds of Crime Act.

A 28-year-old man from Barry was also arrested for the same matters on December 11.

Both men have been bailed until March, pending further enquiries.

Detective Sergeant Julian Kerslake said: "Cases such as this demonstrate how important information from the public can be.

"Thanks to the initial report by a concerned member of the public, our officers discovered evidence of drug use which they were able to link to a much larger operation.

"The cannabis being grown at the addresses was most likely destined for the streets of south Wales, and the committed work by our officers, along with the support of the public, has prevented this from happening.

"We would urge anyone with any information relating to illegal drug activity to report it to us because we do act upon it intelligence from the public."

Anyone with information should call 101, or Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555 111.

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The Force is strong with Rogue One!

by GARETH JAMIESON
Follow Screen Talk on Twitter – @GEMScreenTalk

WHEN Disney bought Lucasfilm in 2012, it seemed unlikely that they were going to let the *Star Wars* franchise rest.

Sure enough, a new trilogy was announced, with Episode VII already a huge success and Episode VIII hitting screens next year – but what was more intriguing was the announcement of 'stand-alone' films set outside the trilogy.

There are several films set to be released in the coming years (including a Han Solo film), but the first of these 'stand-alones' hits cinema screens in R*ogue One: A Star Wars Story*.

Set before the events of Episode IV (or the 1977 film for those not keeping count), it tells the story of Jyn (Felicity Jones), who is recruited by the Rebel Alliance to steal the plans for the Death Star – created by her father (Mads Mikkelsen); with a rag-tag mob including Cassian Andor (Diego Luna) and Bodhi Rook (Riz Ahmed), a group set out to stop the Galactic Empire, and Orson Krennic's (Ben Mendelsohn), plans...

The *Star Wars* franchise is in rude health at the moment. Last year's nostalgia-fest that was *The Force Awakens* has recalibrated the series after the underwhelming prequel trilogy, meaning *Rogue One* sails in on something of a high.

This is definitely a change-up for the franchise; it doesn't spoil things to confirm there is no opening crawl, no blare of John William's indelible theme tune. Instead, we are launched directly into the story, as we learn how Jyn came to be separated from her father and how she has ended up where she is, when we meet her in the form of Felicity Jones.

Jones does a strong job of leading the film, the series not known for its powerful female characters (Princess Leia and Rey from The Force Awakens aside), but Jyn's pluck and determination is essayed well by the actress, the relationship (or lack of) with her father lending this mission a personal edge.

The rest of the group tasked with seeking these plans aren't as well sketched as Jyn, yet the performances leave an indelible mark even if the characters don't. Donnie Yen, as a blind man who believes in the power of the Force, lingers longest, but the likes of Diego Luna, Riz Ahmed and Wen Jiang all get a grace moment that connects.

Alan Tudyk's motion-capture performance as robot K-2SO is well done, his pithy droid a droll character that provides some moments of comic relief, but Ben Mendelsohn's villainous Krennic has untapped potential, his backstory and desire to establish himself in the upper echelons of the Empire not fully explored, and Mendelsohn doesn't manage to get past this with his slightly bland turn.

Director Gareth Edwards treads a fine line between nostalgia and pushing and pulling the tenets of the franchise into new directions; there are some nice touches that revisit the old films (and the occasionally poorly-rendered CGI depictions of classic characters) but it's clear that Edwards, while nailing the tone of the original trilogy, is also willing and able to push things forward.

Among the callbacks to the original trilogy is the presence of one Sith lord with a penchant for black; sparingly, but powerfully, used, his appearances are thrilling and excellently staged, gloriously executed and undeniably breathtaking.

The climactic battle, raging across space and a planet of blue skies and even bluer seas, really ramps up the action quotient and sees some of the most thrilling set-pieces staged in any of the *Star Wars* films.

The ability to deliver spectacle, but weigh it down with narrative and emotion, is deftly done by the director, who shows a real confidence and assuredness in his work.

As thrilling a film as it is, it certainly is not a flawless piece of work; the opening half-hour or so feels clunky and heavy on exposition (partly the reason why the second half of the film flies by with such ease), with a sub-plot involving a militant rebel played by Forest Whitaker feeling a tad superfluous and easily excised.

That this character already exists in the universe (having been a part of animated series *The Clone Wars*) leaves you with the feeling he's there as a bridge into the unknown, rather than an integral part of proceedings.

Also, the script doesn't really gel the band of rebels together in a way that makes you feel they're a united team. There's no real friction but no real unity either, they feel thrown together and the emotional pay-off at the climax, while connecting, doesn't quite feel deserved.

However, what is undeniable is that *Rogue One* has that *Star Wars* magic, that captivating mix of spectacle and adventure that is a heady concoction, and by the time the credits roll (with the film neatly and cleverly segueing into Episode IV) you'll feel that the Force is strong with this one.

VERDICT: A Rogue One in name only, this first 'stand-alone' *Star Wars* film has the magic and spectacle of the franchise, but takes it to places that allow it to breathe and stand on its own two feet. A slightly unsteady opening aside, Gareth Edwards directs with confidence, building the scale, and with some lovely turns, this is up there with the best films in the franchise. *Highly recommended*.

SEE THIS IF YOU LIKED: *Star Wars – A New Hope* (1977), *The Empire Strikes Back* (1980).

Screen Talk wishes all readers a merry Christmas and a happy new year - keep reading for the Screen Talk top 10 films of 2016!

Vale author's new book

ANDREW THOMAS, who has lived in Peterston-super-Ely for many years, has recently published a book called *Once Upon A Place*.

Author Andrew Thomas

The book is a collection of linked short stories set in his native Pembrokeshire in the 1950s.

Andrew was the son of a the village rector in a fishing and farming village on the tip of the Pembroke Peninsula, and he experienced a unique community and way of life that has largely disappeared.

Electricity was yet to make an appearance and running water inside houses was a rarity.

The people who inhabited this special place had an identity and individuality characteristic of south Pembrokeshire folk, the 'little England beyond Wales'.

His book, in many ways, is a tribute to them and the place and time they inhabited.

Once upon a Place is about growing up in rural Pembrokeshire where a new day means a new adventure for the central character, Tom Jenkins.

From the beaches to the woods and everywhere in between, Tom takes the reader on journeys that charm, frighten and exhilarate in equal measure.

Phil Carradice, a prolific well-known Vale author, said of the book: "It's enthralling, captivating and very well written. I defy anyone not to enjoy this."

For 35 years, Andrew taught English in grammar and comprehensive schools in England and Wales. He has contributed to various magazines, had his poetry published, and was an editor of a university publication for many years.

The book is available from the author and from some local bookshops, it costs £7.99.

For more information, visit www.andrew-thomas.format.com.

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What's on and where

Carols in the Castle

Today (Thursday, December 22) meet at Cowbridge cattle market at 6.15pm to walk to St Quentin's Castle at 6.30pm for carols and readings; wear warm clothes and bring a torch or lantern.

St Athan services

ST THATHAN Church's Christmas celebrations begin with the St Athan Voluntary Band's carol concert this Friday, December 23 at 7.30pm, with refreshments.

Midnight Mass begins at 11.30pm on Christmas Eve, led by new Rector Canon Edwin Counsell.

On Christmas morning at 10am there is a family Communion service.

Free buffet at Christmas

THE Cadoxton Youth Project team is holding a free buffet on Christmas Day at Cadoxton Methodist Church, Church Road, Barry (CF63 2HL) from 2pm – 4pm.

It's open to all who may be alone on the day, and wish to meet others, or families struggling in difficult circumstances at Christmas.

Free food bags will be delivered around the community on the day. Call Rita on 01446 734414 for more details.

Cowbridge History Society

THE society's next lecture will be on Friday, January 6 at 7.30pm, in the Lesser Hall of the Town Hall, Cowbridge.

The topic is 'The Dissenters part II – Civil War and Restoration, Toleration, Science and Education' by Don Gerrard.

All are welcome. For more information visit www.cowbridgehistorysociety.org.

Zoar Messy Church

ST Mary's Church and Zoar, Bonvilston will be hosting Messy Church in the New Year, from January 15 onwards.

Fun, games, Bible stories will all feature, at the Reading Room (opposite Old Village Shop) on the third Sunday of every month at 2.30pm and toddlers (accompanied), youngsters and teenagers are all invited to take part. Why not give it a go?

Further information from Rev Lee Dutfield on 07884 869020 or from Rev Martyn Davies on 01446 760498, or Ann Roach on 01446 781309.

Generous residents make sure needy children are not forgotten

Brynteg Comprehensive pupils with teacher Craig Wade and Coun Hailey Townsend.

HUNDREDS of gifts have been donated to help brighten up Christmas for vulnerable children in Bridgend county borough.

They were donated by, among others, Bridge FM, Brynteg Comprehensive School and Hafod Y Wennol at Bridgend County Borough Council, from separate toy appeals.

As part of Bridge FM's annual Christmas Toy Appeal, residents and local businesses donated hundreds of Christmas presents which were then split between various organisations across the county borough, including those children in care. Members of staff at Hafod y Wennol in the Vale of Glamorgan, an assessment and treatment unit for adults with learning disabilities, went the extra mile by encouraging friends and family to donate presents for children of all ages.

Kind-hearted pupils from Brynteg Comprehensive School raised a whopping £3,200 by organising activities, such as: selling sweets, sponsored walks, bake sales, a carolathon, and bag packing at Sainsbury's.

The money raised by the mini-Santas was used to buy Christmas presents for 109 children and young people across the county borough. They were delivered to the council offices courtesy of Apsee Removals where the Brynteg pupils were waiting to hand-deliver the gifts themselves.

Priority will be given to those children and young people who have entered the care system at what should be a festive and fun period for them, or those who might not receive anything or very little due to their difficult family circumstances.

Cabinet member for social services and early help, Coun Phil White, said: "We're overwhelmed and touched by the kindness of local people who have put children first in their thoughts this Christmas. Some children would have not a single present to open on Christmas Day if it wasn't for Bridge FM's Toy Appeal, Brynteg's Santa Appeal and the kind heartedness of staff from Hafod y Wennol.

Currently, there are 385 children and young people in care and the need for more foster carers continues.

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Dinas Powys traders are angry after being hit by 'waste' fines

PENALTIES of £2,400 have been imposed on six shop keepers in Dinas Powys following a swoop by private contractors working for the Vale Council on waste collection, local Plaid Cymru councillors said.

The fines relate to waste disposal items such as cardboard boxes and plastic wrappings.

The Vale Council told The GEM that officers had regular meetings with the contractors to ensure they were operated as instructed.

Plaid Cymru Councillor Chris Franks said he was concerned as to whether the action had been justified.

He explained: "I have been contacted by shop keepers located at the Parade, Dinas Powys, regarding a visit by a representative of 3GS. He found fault with the storage of waste to the rear of about six shops and imposed penalties amounting to £2,400 in the space of 30 minutes. Each penalty was either £300 or £600.

"I am not satisfied that this is an appropriate action as in many cases it seems that bagged waste of cardboard was the problem. In another case a steel waste trolley lid was open a faction. The waste was not causing litter and was properly bagged up for disposal.

"I understand that 3GS is our newly appointed contractor for such matters. Plaid cannot think of many other ways of hitting local shops in the run up to Christmas."

REGULATIONS

Local MP Alun Cairns urged people running small businesses in the Vale to secure their commercial waste in the light of recent fines.

He was contacted by Janice Mapstone, of Valley View Fruit Store in Castle Drive shopping parade in Dinas Powys who is subject to a £300 penalty charge notice.

Mrs Mapstone told him that an enforcement officer acting for the council entered her store on Friday and issued the fine for a breach of regulations concerning commercial waste.

She told the MP: "I employ a youngster to break down all of my cardboard packaging before it is sent back to the cash and carry depot. It is kept on private property, in my shop's rear yard, but because the entrance to the yard is unsecured I have been issued with this fine.

"Another shop on the parade was issued with a fine for having just one black bag in the wrong place. I am appalled."

Mr Cairns is concerned that the private-sector enforcement officers, brought in by the Vale Council earlier this year, may be 'trigger happy'.

He said: "I am disturbed by reports that enforcement officers acting for the council are entering premises indiscriminately and handing out eye-watering fixed penalty notices for what appear to be very minor breaches of commercial waste regulations."

He has written to the council asking for clarification on the action that was taken.

Miles Punter, director of environment and housing, said the council worked closely with the contractors to ensure their duties were carried out as agreed.

"3GS are currently working in partnership with the council to undertake the enforcement of environmental offences, such as dog fouling and littering.

"In addition, 3GS has started to enforce the 'duty of care' requirements for commercial businesses within the Vale and last week, some specific areas of Dinas Powys.

"Council officers meet regularly with 3GS to review their work and ensure duties are being performed as instructed."

For the latest stories and breaking news... glamorgan-gem.co.uk

‘All-inclusive’ luxury nursing home opens up in Cardiff

Ty Llandaff’s cinema room.

The Piano Bar.

A LUXURY residential nursing home, which includes a spa, gym and cinema, has opened in Cardiff and offers five-star accommodation and superb facilities on an ‘all inclusive’ basis.

The multi-million pound development at Ty Llandaff is situated in the quiet suburb of Pontcanna close to Llandaff village. It will create more than 80 jobs in the local area.

Built to a high standard, across three floors and with 72 luxurious en-suite bedrooms, Ty Llandaff has been created to provide exceptional levels of care in an ‘all-inclusive’ luxury environment.

Facilities include a home cinema, piano bar, hair salon, luxury spa and therapy rooms, gym, on-site chef and fine dining, accessible beautiful landscaped gardens, and a ‘celebrations room’ which can used for private family occasions.

Ty Llandaff has a dedicated activities co-ordinator who provides a varied and daily programme of entertainment and activities. It also boasts a concierge and chauffeur service with a Mercedes-Benz ready to take residents into town, which is also covered by the weekly fees.

The home is ideally situated for visitors with buses running every 10 minutes to Cardiff city centre with the bus stop just 100 yards away.

Registered manager Janice Evans, who has more than 30 years of experience managing care homes and is a registered nurse, said: “My approach is to provide high quality care to all residents, understanding their needs and respecting their choices, while working closely with relatives to be open and transparent at all times.”

She concluded: “We want our residents to be able to enjoy all that Ty Llandaff has to offer, which is why we provide all-inclusive living.

“It allows our residents to live life to the full and take advantage of all our facilities and activities without having to worry about additional costs.”

For more information, call Jan on 02920 600 100, email info@tyllandaffcare.com or visit www.tyllandaffcare.com.

Gatland ‘humbled’ by Velindre visit

Lions’ coach Warren Gatland with Jonathan Davies on their visit to Velindre Cancer Centre.

WARREN GATLAND was the guest at a charity event in Cardiff to make it a special Christmas for patients at Velindre Cancer Centre.

The British and Irish Lions head coach spent the afternoon visiting patients and staff – and was ‘humbled’ at what he saw.

“It certainly puts life into perspective and was a humbling but very uplifting experience,” Mr Gatland said.

“The Lions are supporting four charities in aid of the ‘Leading The Lions’ dinner series and Velindre is the chosen charity in Cardiff, so I was very grateful to have had the opportunity to see the fantastic work they do.”

Gatland was joined by former Wales legend and president of Velindre Jonathan Davies. They met with nurses, staff and patients.

The first patient they met was 23-year-old Tom Carter, who has bone cancer and is captain of the Wales disabled cricket team.

“You just have to deal with it,” he said of his illness.

“But Velindre is the best place for treatment, without any doubt, and to have the chance to meet Warren and Jonathan was very special.”

As they toured the wards, the pair met lifelong Welsh fan Geraint Price, who not only quizzed Mr Gatland on his Lions’ selection dilemmas but was also pleased to have his Lions jersey signed.

“I stayed a little bit longer just to meet them and see if I could get any inside information on his squad,” he said. “It’s a special opportunity; we chatted. It made everything human. He signed my shirt too – it was great.”

For more information on the ‘Leading The Lions’ dinner series and to book a place, visit https://tours.lionsrugby.com/leading-the-lions/

LATEST NEWS IN AND OUT OF CLASS AT YSGOL GYMRAEG BRO MORGANNWG

Morgan Bowring.

At Barry Island.

ON Friday, December 9, a hardy crew of year-12 pupils, along with their teachers took part in our annual plunge into the icy waters of Barry Island. Despite the cold, it was a fun afternoon, with sponsorship money going towards the school's chosen charity for this year – Elusen Jac Bach.

Ryan Smith.

Gruff Edwards.

Lords debate

MORGAN BOWRING, Gruff Edwards and Ryan Smith – all year-13 pupils – recently attended a House of Lords Chamber event organised by the English Speaking Union.

Under the guidance of Lord Fowler, 200 students debated whether freedom of speech should be curtailed or fully allowed.

As the only school from Wales at the event, all three students spoke and voiced clear opinions on the motion.

Ryan, the grandson of a former Vale MP, John Smith, performed particularly well and was commended for his performance.

Public speaking

FURTHER public speaking successes have included a regional victory for Huw Jones, Tia Roach and Twm Aled in the English Speaking Union Churchill competition held at St Cyres recently with the national final to be held at Ty Hywel Chamber, Cardiff next March.

Hwb Seren Network

THE Vale of Glamorgan recently launched the Hwb Seren Network at the Vale of Glamorgan Hotel.

The initiative, targeted towards MAT (More Able and Talented) pupils was attended by 19 pupils in year-12.

The students were provided with an overview of the network's role, the provision for the next years and representation from Russell Group Universities.

Whilst pupils in year 13 await university offers for October 2017 it is pleasing to note that four students have been invited to interview at Oxbridge.

We wish them well with the forthcoming interviews.

Several Christmas concerts have also been held with the foundation phase and Key Stage 2 pupils all taking part with hundreds of supporting parents in attendance.

Nadolig Llawen i bawb a Blwyddyn Newydd Dda.

Pupils at the ESU Churchill competition.

£10m Welsh Government boost for businesses is 'welcome, but belated'

COMMENTING on the announcement that the Welsh Government will make available an extra £10million to help firms cope with changes to their business rates, South Wales Central AM and Leader of the Welsh Conservatives, Andrew RT Davies this week welcomed the news, but added that the government has "belatedly bowed to pressure".

"Welsh Conservatives have been working with small businesses to campaign for more support ever since these increases were announced," he said.

"In Cowbridge, many businesses saw their rates more than double, which will put them under huge pressure. Special praise must go to Sally Stephenson and other business owners who have worked hard to force the Welsh Government to backtrack, and it was a pleasure to work with them.

"While this news is not the tax cut Labour promised during the election, it is to be welcomed, and I hope it will be sufficient to support SMEs facing a huge uplift in their bills.

"The fact that the Welsh Government refused to change tack for so long shows they would not have acted had it not been for the sheer pressure they were under, and small businesses have sent them a clear message they will not be ignored," he concluded.

CRACKING CHRISTMAS LUNCH FOR BP SOCIETY PENSIONERS!

Gladstone Primary School choir.

MEMBERS of the BP Society Pensioners, East Wales region, celebrated Christmas lunch at the Masonic Hall, Barry, on Thursday, December 15.

Members were delighted to be entertained, and take part with the pupils of Gladstone Primary School in their rendering of Christmas carols.

The choir was led by Kate Manfield.

On behalf of all the members who attended the lunch, a big 'thank you' to the pupils and Kate Manfield.

All proceeds from the raffle on the day will be donated to our local Marie Curie hospice in Penarth.

PAMELA COLSTON,

Treasurer for BP Society's east Wales region

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The Glamorgan GEM
Season's Greetings

Christmas will offer a welcome break from the momentous events that took place on the world's stage this year

SOMETIMES, The GEM's corner of Wales seems a long way from the turbulent events that have swept acoss the world this year, and Christmas offers a chance to reflect on all this tumult.

We all hope that the festive break will offer families an opportunity to spend time together, and take a welcome break from the hurly burly of modern life.

Sadly, the events this week in Berlin mean that Christmas has been tarnished for many people.

That people can be at risk in a traditional market while buying Christmas gifts and enjoying the festive atmosphere only emphasises how the world has changed.

A good old phrase such as 'peace and good will to all' sometimes seems a forlorn hope in this new world of 'post truth politics', fake news and social media trolls.

The screen writer William Goldman, who wrote *Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid* – among many other successful films – once coined the phrase '*Nobody knows anything*'.

Now, he was talking about films, about why a project packed with box office stars could be a complete flop, while an unheralded film with low expectations could suddenly catch the public's imagination and be a monster hit.

(If you want an example, just consider that *Star Wars* – with the latest of umpteen incarnations now in your local multiplex – was not rated as any type of hit by its own studio when it was released.)

The public thought otherwise, proving the experts wrong, and we have seeen that pattern repeat itself politically this year.

The now former Prime Minister, David Cameron, called the Brexit referendum on the advice of experts who assured him he could not lose – and now he is an ex-Prime Minister.

In the USA, Donald Trump was written off as a no-hoper (along with many other uncomplimentary epithets) and he went on to become President-elect of the United States of America.

Truly, as Mr Goldman said: *"Nobody knows anything."*

So, at this time of year it is good to be able to concentrate on the valuable things in life that can't be touched by the unpredictable and disturbing state of the planet.

Family life is a refuge, and coming together at Christmas offers a chance to catch up on the important things in life – how much little Thomas or Emily have grown since you last saw them, for instance.

All the minor irritations are just that – minor. Even naff presents from Auntie Ivy can be seen for what they are, an amusing moment when every family member plays their allotted part in a tradition that goes back many years!

(CONTINUED ON FACING PAGE.)

BARRY TOWN COUNCIL
CYNGOR TREF Y BARRI

The Town Mayor of Barry, Councillor Charlotte Williams and members of the Town Council *send Greetings to the Townspeople of Barry together with sincere wishes for Health, Happiness and Prosperity for Christmas*

Maer y Dref y Barri, Y Cynghorydd Charlotte Williams ac Aelodau'r Cyngor Tref y Barri

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Llantwit First Independent Vale Councillors

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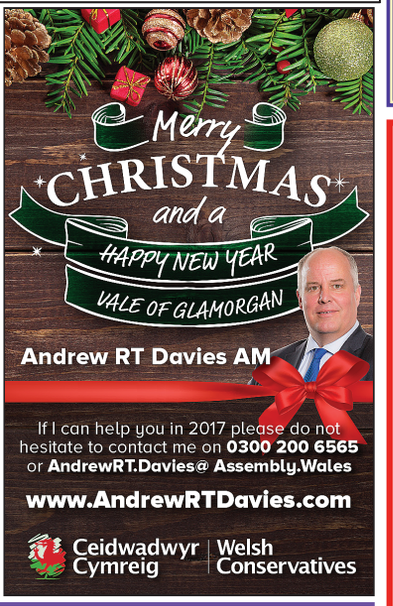
VALE OF GLAMORGAN



Andrew RT Davies AM

If I can help you in 2017 please do not hesitate to contact me on **0300 200 6565** or **AndrewRT.Davies@ Assembly.Wales**

www.AndrewRTDavies.com

Ceidwadwyr Cymreig | Welsh Conservatives

Councillor Stuart Egan

The Mayor of the Vale of Glamorgan Council extends Seasons Greetings to all residents of the Vale of Glamorgan.

Merry Christmas & Happy New Year

Mae'r Cynghorydd Stuart Egan

Faer Cyngor Bro Morgannwg, yn estyn Cyfarchion yr yl i holl drigolion y Fro.

Nadolig Llawen a Blwyddyn Newydd Dda

A very *Happy Christmas* and *New Year* from

Jane Hutt

Labour Assembly Member for the Vale of Glamorgan

Jane.hutt@assembly.wales
www.janehutt.wales
(01446) 740981

Regular surgeries held throughout the Vale

RICHARD BERTIN & ANDY GRIFFITHS

Independents for Barry Court Ward.
No cards: donation to Vale Food Bank

Richard – 07973 153987
Andy – 07817 773479

Regular surgeries held

Willowmere home care agency

We would like to wish all our clients and staff a Merry Christmas and a happy

For further information please contact us on
Tel: 01446 679175
Email: info@willowmere-care.com

TURBULENT TIMES... but the festive season can be a real haven

(CONTINUED FROM FACING PAGE.)

In the grand scheme of things, the Christmas specials from *Dr Who, Sherlock* or *Strictly* might not matter, but they bring a sense of continuity to the season – even a sense of belonging – that reminds us all of life's traditions.

In so many areas of life, saying '*we do it this way because that's the way we have always done it*' is a bad thing, but at Christmas it ain't necessarily so.

Following the routine that has built up over so many years is, in one sense, the glue that binds society together.

In Porthcawl for instance, it has taken quite a few years but for so many people, the Christmas Morning Swim is part of their day.

Everyone has their own routine, whether it be actually swimming, or cheering on from the beach, or meeting friends before heading home for Christmas dinner.

All different routines – although a surprising number involve knocking back a few whiskys to keep out the chilly winds!

In other parts of the Vale and Bridgend county borough, there are so many events that became a habit and are now a tradition. It might be a fun run, a mountain walk, the Boxing Day sales, or watching *It's a Wonderful Life* for the 19th time – it's a case of each to his or her own when it comes to tradition.

Why have I emphasised traditions?

Well, it's been a year when 'tradition' has been, on occasion, a dirty word.

'Traditional' rivalries between nations, races, political groups, and social classes seem to be behind so much of the conflict and despair in the world.

People talk of a clash between traditional thinking and present day thought and values.

Lack of respect for different cultures' traditions seems to be a cause – or perhaps it's just a symptom – of so many bad things that happen in the world.

It's only at times like Christmas – or the significant days of other religions – that respecting traditions seems to be the thing to do.

It's probably asking a lot to hope that we can return to a world where every aspect of tradition is a good thing

My more cynical friends will point out at this point that there child labour used to be a tradition – and I'm aware of that.

Let's just say that we all know which traditions are good for society – so let's take time to raise a glass to them this year!

PHILIP IRWIN

Readers' Letters

Please keep your letters BRIEF and address them to: The Editor, at Glamorgan GEM Ltd, Graig House, 53 Eastgate, Cowbridge CF71 7EL or email gemeditorial@tindlenews.co.uk

• Letters and e-mails MUST include your FULL address and a contact telephone number.

An email address alone is not sufficient!

We reserve the right to edit all letters. We do NOT accept anonymous mail.

'THE CENTRE OF WELSH FAILURE?'

You invited GEM readers to comment on the suggestion that the Welsh Assembly should be renamed the Welsh Parliament.

Before turning to that issue, it would be well to remind ourselves that here in Wales we have the worst PISA results within the UK; have the longest NHS waiting lists in the UK; and we are at the bottom of the UK Gross Value Added table .

All of these are as a direct result of Welsh Assembly policies. There are many other issues which we could add to the list, such as inflation-busting increases in Council Tax that we have seen over the last seven to eight years, while that tax was frozen in many parts of the UK.

We have Assembly Members who continually tell us that they are over-worked. Strange then to note that many have second jobs and not a few have outside business interests.

Now our politicians are calling for a change of name from the Welsh Assembly to the Welsh Parliament. No doubt this will provide a boost to their egos and would, undoubtedly, be the forerunner to yet another 10 per cent-plus increase in their salaries.

Will a change of name with all the associated costs improve Welsh education or reduce NHS waiting lists? No, of course not.

Politicians of all parties would do well to concentrate on holding an ineffective Welsh Assembly Government to account and to work on solving the very real issues that their constituents face, rather than worrying about name changes.

Is it a reflection on the quality of our politicians that this issue is even being discussed?

Perhaps a better suggestion and certainly more apt is "Should the Welsh Assembly be re-named the centre of Welsh failure?"

John A Turner, Rhoose Point.

No need for translation

I AM at a loss to understand why the Welsh word 'Senedd' which, I understand, means 'Parliament' in English, needs to be substituted to the English meaning.

I am not a Welsh speaker, and at my current age, will never be so, although I wish I had the ability to be one.

I thought the people of Wales were very proud to be Welsh, but little by little the erosion of the language will reduce the country to become a large English county.

That said, people who are unaware that the Welsh Senedd means Welsh Parliament I would suggest are very, very few.

As the old American saying goes: "If it's not broke, don't fix it."

FMD Knill, Pendoylan.

SCOUT POST THANK YOU

ONCE again, the Scout Post in Cowbridge has had a successful year and all cards have now been delivered.

The number this year is down on the previous two years, but a total of just under 14,000 is still significant and means a contribution of about £2,600 to Scout group funds, towards the maintenance of the hall and activities of the Scouts, Cubs and Beavers.

The sorting and delivery of the cards is carried out by leaders, parents and friends, some of whom have been regulars since Cowbridge joined up with Cardiff, etc, some 12 years ago.

I would like to personally thank all those who helped and hope they have a very peaceful and enjoyable Christmas.

Every year we get cards which are wrongly addressed and each time a big effort is made to find the correct one, but sometimes this is not possible.

Once again, there are about 100 cards addressed to areas not covered by the Scout Post and these, I am afraid, are not posted on.

Thank you to all of you who used the Scout Post and, once again, thank you to all our helpers.

David Weber, unit assistant, Cowbridge Scout Group.

Lazy parenting a future problem

THIS letter is to the party of mothers, accompanied by young children, who visited the Bryn Owain, Cowbridge on the evening of Sunday, December 18.

Do you think it's acceptable for your children to run around other diners' tables, shouting? Or maybe you think it's okay for them to throw things down the stairs at people dining?

Did you think we enjoyed hearing how many decibels your children could reach?

Presumably you think it's up to someone else to educate them on correct behaviour – teachers, strangers or restaurant staff, maybe?

You are simply demonstrating a lack of respect for yourselves and others by allowing your children to do exactly as they please, and if people don't like it – it's their problem, it would seem.

One boy of about seven spent the entire duration of our visit on his 'electronic babysitter' – his phone – with no interaction with anyone else at all. I don't even know who was with him.

My three children are frequently paid compliments for their polite behaviour, which I have always thought a bit odd, as surely polite, respectful manners should be the norm, not the exception.

I know everyone is entitled to raise their children as they see fit, but I despair that the next generation will be selfish, thoughtless and spoilt.

So, ladies, put down your phones and glasses of wine.

It's time to start engaging your children, teaching them how to use cutlery, 'indoor' voices, and how to behave when there are other people around who might not find them delightful.

Name and address supplied.

Festive message to GEM readers

WITH Christmas just a few days away, I would like to take this opportunity to send a festive message to all GEM readers.

It has without doubt been a very eventful and somewhat unpredictable year, with a new Prime Minister, a new US President elected, and the UK voting to leave the European Union.

I, therefore, hope you will join me in having a well-earned rest over the Christmas period and come back ready for whatever 2017 has in store.

We shouldn't be shy to celebrate the fact that Christmas is a Christian festival, and that it is a time for giving and spending time with loved ones.

We should also reflect on those less fortunate than ourselves – those who may be dreading spending the day alone, or those who may be going through difficult times. To me, that is what the spirit of Christmas is all about.

So I would like to wish all Vale residents, of all faiths and none, a very merry Christmas, and a happy and prosperous new year.

Andrew RT Davies AM,
(Leader of the Welsh Conservatives, South Wales Central AM).

CHRISTINGLE SERVICE CELEBRATED TO PACKED CONGREGATION AT SANDVILLE!

REPORT AND PHOTOGRAPHS by KEITH E MORGAN

ABOVE: Students Jemma and Sultaan in charge of refreshments

LEFT: Children with their Christingles.

ABOVE: Who will be the lucky prize-winner in the first draw?

THE Christingle service was celebrated again this year at a packed St Michael's Church at Sandville, with many having to wait outside the building.

The service was introduced by Sister Gwyneth Poacher and conducted by the Rev.Canon Philip Masson, Rector of Porthcawl.

Prayers were said and carols galore were sung to the accompaniment of the 'Carolleros', vocalists and guitarists Ray and Wyn, who are regular volunteer performers at the Sandville.

Excitement was aroused in both children and adults when the Christingle oranges with their lighted candles atop, which had been prepared by Gwyneth and her team, were brought into the church and handed out to one and all.

An extra special Christian family atmosphere was obtained for a few magic moments when the lights were switched off and the church was only illuminated by the flickering lights of the burning candles.

The ceremony of the Christingle Service is at least 500 years old; no one knows just how far back it goes. There are records of an ancient Welsh '*calenig*' service, and the Moravian church has held Christingle services for well over 200 years, though they do not believe that the custom started with them.

During the 1960s, the Rev Fr John Pensom of the Church of England Children's Society in England, revived the custom and in 1982 over a thousand services were held in many countries throughout the world. More than £85,000 were collected to help handicapped children, those without homes, and families in need.

Christingle means 'Christ-light'. It is a celebration of the coming of Christ, the Light into the World. At the service, gifts of money collected beforehand are presented and in turn, Christingles are received. The Christingle itself is an orange which represents the world.

On top of the orange is a lighted candle representing Christ, who came to be the Light of the World. Around the candle are nuts and fruit symbolic of the fruits of the Earth. The red ribbon around the middle of the orange represents the Blood of Christ, who was born in order to die to save the world from sin.

After the service, the congregation retired to join others in what was to become an even more packed and crowded main reception lounge of the Sandville Centre, where refreshments were served by two faithful and dedicated student volunteers at Sandville, Jemma and Sultaan.

Jemma is in her final year at Coventry University studying to be a children's nurse, while Sultaan is at Brynteg Comprehensive School, where in 2017 he will be taking his A-level examinations for a place in university to qualify to become a doctor.

After the refreshments had been consumed, the traditional Sandville Christmas raffle draw was held. Eleven bumper baskets of Christmas goodies had been prepared by raffle queen Heather, who really took the part dressed in her Father Christmas ensemble, while the Rev Canon Philip Masson took on his usual responsibility for conducting the draw.

The raffle raised the staggering sum of £790 for Sandville funds; a great effort all round and well done to all involved.

Dr Alyson applies some medical magic to the draw!

ABOVE: Raffle Queen Heather, with final prize-winner Meryl and Rev Philip Masson.

ABOVE: Hamper prize winner Len.

BELOW: Rev Canon Philip Mason officially scrutinises the raffle tickets.

Christmas joy for children of Parc!

CHRISTMAS can be a tough time for children whose parents are in custody, but Santa has been making surprise visits to Parc Prison in Bridgend to put a smile on their faces.

Santa and his elves at Parc Prison.

Father Christmas and his elves have been handing out gifts to prisoners' children at the prison visitors' centre, which is run by Barnardo's Cymru.

More than 100 children have visited Santa's magical grotto during the last two weeks and have received early presents along with the chance to have their photographs taken with the great man himself.

Barnardo's workers staffed the grotto and it proved very popular with the children and their families.

Kerry Gordon, Barnardo's Cymru's family support worker at the visitors' centre, said: "Santa and his elves were there for two weekends and we had some lovely feedback.

"One family member said it meant their child was extremely excited to be visiting and another remarked on the warm and welcoming environment."

Two Christmas parties for children and this is organised in the family interventions lounge at the private prison which is run by G4S near Pencoed.

Barnardo's Cymru runs the prisons visitors' centre which is used by 6,000 visitors each month – 2,000 of them children. Craft activities and play is organised to make visiting time a positive experience for children as they wait to visit their fathers.

Support is also given inside the prison so that some fathers can spend time playing with their children and maintaining family ties through a range of Barnardo's services for Children Affected by Parental Imprisonment (CAPI) and the Invisible Walls Wales service. Families are also supported by the charity in the community.

Corin Morgan-Armstrong, Head of Family Interventions Custody and Community with G4S, said: "Christmas can be a confusing, lonely and upsetting time for children with a parent in prison, so we are delighted our partnership with Barnardo's has been able to create some seasonal magic for these often forgotten children."

Boverton author publishes third book in trilogy

Anthony Lavisher.

BOVERTON author Anthony Lavisher, who works at Barry Library, is celebrating the release of his fantasy novel *Vengeance of a Storm*.

It's is the final part of his 'Storm Trilogy' and is the culmination of seven years work – from conception to publication of the third book.

Anthony describes the trilogy as "A modern tale, from older times."

He explained: "It is set in the mythical land of the Four Vales. The trilogy follows the epic story of two unfortunates, caught up in a dark plot, full of treachery, intrigue and adventure."

It is in the style of David Gemmell and George RR Martin.

Anthony said: "I have been touched by the response my books have received. I write my books to appeal to all readers not just fans of the fantasy genre."

Anthony's novels can be purchased online in paperback and eBook; or ordered from local bookshops; or from Amazon.

Toy appeal: 'Everyone should get a present at Christmas'

CARDIFF and Vale College staff have backed the St David's Toy Appeal, a local charity that aims to ensure every child in south Wales receives a gift this Christmas.

Staff donated toys and gifts that will be distributed to young people who might be facing Christmas Day in hospital, or who may otherwise not receive a present because of other reasons

The charities supported by the St David's and Capital FM Toy Appeal are Sparkle, Salvation Army, Dreams and Wishes, Gibbonsdown, Latch, Y Bont, Action for Children, Ty Hafan, Llamau, George Thomas Hospice, Home-Start and Valleys Kids.

CAVC staff pitched in to donate around 100 Christmas presents. Last year, the appeal collected more than 5,500 toys.

Cardiff and Vale College principal and chief executive Mike James said: "There are a lot of children out there who through various reasons might not got a present this year. That's why we have decided to support this extremely worthwhile cause which supports local charities who do so much to make a difference for the south Wales community.

"Everyone should have a present at Christmas and we are happy to be able support the St David's Toy Appeal, which does so much to help make that happen."

Dogs Trust Bridgend thanks its volunteers

THIS Christmas, Dogs Trust Bridgend is paying homage to its incredible volunteers who offer year-round support to the centre's four-legged friends as they await forever homes.

Volunteer Richard Goss (left) with Tia the Collie.

The Trust relies on volunteers to help out with a variety of tasks over the festive period and Christmas Day – from cleaning the kennels to walking the dogs; some also help give out special treats that have been saved especially for the dogs.

Richard Goss has been a volunteer for Dogs Trust Bridgend for 10 years, walking the dogs, socialising with them and attending events, which he does dressed as a dog!

Richard said: "When I was asked if I could help out over the festive period, I jumped at the chance – I can't think of anywhere else I'd rather be! Throughout the year, we all work so hard to give the dogs the best possible time while they wait for their forever homes and we feel it's especially important to do that over Christmas.

"While the dogs don't know it's Christmas and we can't offer them their own sofa or a roaring fire to relax in front of, we will be making sure they all feel special and don't miss out on any of the fun!"

Dogs Trust is reliant on its team of volunteers, which is now nearing 1,500 extra helpers including 75 at Dogs Trust Bridgend, and each and every one makes a difference to the dogs lives and helps ensure the kennels are full of happy hounds whilst they wait to meet their special someone. From helping in the laundry room to getting into the kennel for some 'cuddle time' with the dogs, the host of volunteers are an integral to Dogs Trust.

If you would like to help, contact Dogs Trust on 0300 303 0292, or call at Bridgend rehoming centre; see www.dogstrust.org.uk.

MM

Pupils sing carols for home residents

LAST week, children from Llancarfan Primary school choir visited Bella Vista nursing home in Barry to spend time with residents and get them in the Christmas mood!

They sang a selection of Christmas carols while the audience clapped and sang along; afterwards, they enjoyed festive biscuits and mince pies together.

Our thanks to Llancarfan resident Mrs Lewis, for giving up her valuable time to come into school and work with the choir, and for joining us on our visit. Thank you to the staff and residents of the nursing home for making us so very welcome.

Merry Christmas and happy New Year, from everyone at Llancarfan Primary School!

CH

CHRISTMAS JUMPERS AT THE DOGS TRUST!

Dogs Trust Bridgend staff – and dogs! – were getting into the festive spirit on 'Christmas Jumper Day' recently.

Think of the carers this Christmas

CHRISTMAS is just around the corner – a time for family and togetherness – but for some, Christmas will be no different to any other time of year and a cause of nothing but isolation, stress and worry.

Many people in the UK are disabled or care for a disabled loved one. In many cases they are bound together 24 hours a day through the need to give and receive care and are reliant on the support of others to have even the most basic quality of life.

Revitalise is a charity that provides much-needed respite holidays for disabled people and carers. The charity wanted to find out about the reality of life for carers and how the responsibility of care is taking an emotional and physical toll.

Some 40 per cent of carers told us that this Christmas they will be lonely, and two thirds said they are always tired, feel mentally exhausted and have trouble sleeping. For them, having a relaxing Christmas is not an option.

Revitalise enhances the lives of thousands of disabled people and carers each year, but there are countless thousands more in need of support. Anyone wishing to donate to the Christmas fundraising appeal should visit www.revitalise.org.uk/christmas-campaign or call 0303 303 0147.

Colin Brook, Revitalise (www.revitalise.org.uk) London.

For the latest stories and breaking news...
glamorgan-gem.co.uk

A CHRISTMAS CELEBRATION CONCERT AT YSGOL GYMRAEG BRO MORGANNWG

CAFWYD dathliad Nadolig arbennig yn YGBM eto eleni gyda chyfraniadau bendigedig gan y Cynradd a'r Uwchradd.

Roedd y neuadd yn orlawn a dros 150 o ddisgyblion yn perfformio.

Dechreuodd y noson gyda lluniaeth o wîn cynnes a chyfraniadau o fins peis gan siopau lleol.

Carem ddiolch i'r holl staff a fu wrthi'n hyfforddi'r disgyblion.

ONCE again this year, YGBM had a fabulous Christmas celebration, with contributions from the primary and secondary departments.

The hall was full, with over 150 pupils performing.

The evening began with mulled wine and contributions of mince pies from local shops.

We would like to thank all staff who coached the pupils. ***KH***

Pencoed level crossing closed for essential work over Christmas

ESSENTIAL upgrade work to improve the road surface over Pencoed level crossing will take place during the Christmas period, as part of Network Rail's Railway Upgrade Plan.

The road over the Bridgend crossing will be closed to pedestrians and vehicles from 10pm on Saturday, December 24 to 4am on Thursday, December 29 2016.

To undertake the work safely, the level crossing will be fenced off, but pedestrians will still be able to cross over the railway using the footbridge at Pencoed station.

A diversionary route for vehicles will be in place during this time, which will be fully signposted and the work will see only the road over the crossing closed, with access maintained to nearby properties and side-streets.

Less able pedestrians will be able to cross the railway using the nearby Penprysg Road footbridge.

Dave Stanbury, programme manager for Network Rail Wales said: *"We would like to thank the local community and road users for bearing with us while we undertake this essential work.*

"We understand that closing the road over the Christmas period is not ideal; however, the work has been carefully planned in at the time when no train services are scheduled to run on this section of track, to minimise disruption."

Alongside the work at Pencoed level crossing, Network Rail Wales is undertaking major upgrade work in the south Wales area,.

It includes commissioning the £300m Cardiff area signalling renewals project to modernise the Cardiff and Valleys network – the largest signalling project of its kind to be commissioned on the rail network.

Passengers can find a breakdown of how their journey may be affected by visiting nationalrail.co.uk/Christmas or following #ChristmasWorks on Twitter.

A LITTLE SHOEBOX JOY AT CHRISTMAS

Sasha Stoyle and Rachel Pearce with the shoeboxes.

TWENTY-five shoeboxes have been donated to Atal y Fro, which provides support for women and children in the Vale who have experienced, or are experiencing, domestic violence.

Llantwit Major residents Sasha Stoyle and Rachel Pearce have collected unwanted toiletries and beauty items, such as shampoo, body lotion, toothpaste and brushes into shoeboxes, and made them into gifts to "help women to start again and remind them that people can and do care."

Sasha and Rachel collected items and used cash donations from family, friends and local businesses to fill the boxes and would like to say a special thank you to: Llantwit Major and Cowbridge Lions; Tina James – Boots, Barry; Holly Huggett – Morrisons, Barry; Simon Hunt - Filco, Llantwit Major; Heather Edwards – Spar, Llantwit Major; Julian, Store Manager – Co op, Llantwit Major; Debbie, 'Helping Hands' Co-ordinator – Wilko, Barry and Jane Burnell – Tesco, Stirling Road, Barry.

RACHEL PEARCE

For the latest stories and breaking news... glamorgan-gem.co.uk

SANTA BOARDS BARRY TOURIST RAILWAY!

Images by **MIKE WILCOCK**

SANTA arrived at Barry Tourist Railway over the weekends of December 10 and 11, and December 17 and 18.

All of the children received presents and mums and dads were able to enjoy mulled wine and mince pies afterwards.

...And a GEM cameraman was on hand to capture some of the many special moments.

Brainy Friends will be collecting for charity

The Brainy Friends – a group of brain-injury survivors who met through Headway – will be collecting for the head injury charity during the Barry Island Swim on New Year's Day.

The Vale's Countdown star bows out in semi-final

THE Vale's 2016 Countdown star, Andrew Fenton, made it all the way to the semi-finals of the latest Channel 4 competition.

Andrew (40) who works for Chris Davies Estate Agents, was an eight times winning Octochamp before making the quarter-finals on Tuesday.

Andrew (pictured) told The GEM: "It was a fantastic Countdown game, nip and tuck all the way. I opened up an eight-point gap when my fellow contestant, John Shaw, went for 'oversion' which wasn't in the dictionary and there weren't two letter Os!

"The next five rounds saw equal scoring and on round 8, we both had the same word 'Qintar' an Albanian currency.

"Sadly, John didn't write it down, so his six points was forfeited and I opened up a 14-point gap, which I held until the penultimate round.

"There was a fairly straightforward numbers game which I missed, but John got, and therefore it was a 4-point swing in my favour – going into what was now a crucial conundrum.

"With two seconds left of the 30, John buzzed, which sent my heart into spasm! Fortunately, he was only jesting, as he didn't know it and I was victorious and moved into the semi-finals which took place yesterday, Wednesday, December 21.

"Sadly, I lost this game against Martin Hurst. He was far better on the day at the letters and the numbers and won fairly comfortably. He moves into the final tomorrow (Friday)."

Ty Hafan lottery

THE following are winning numbers in the Ty Hafan Crackerjackpot lottery draw number D963.

- **£2,000:** 711247.
- **The rollover, which now stands at £10,000 was not won this week.**
- **£10:** 437107, 255834, 402269, 878651, 119673, 471985, 752725, 314849, 232166, 155011, 167462, 659179, 227584, 146762, 329371, 157990, 152018, 702069, 491515.
- **£5:** 130412, 201519, 493912, 838450, 663196, 662612, 642295, 569803, 379252, 338691, 783376, 388514, 531166, 390380, 118248, 336797, 481475, 627096, 669648, 462305, 121381, 238535, 600852, 438269, 139936, 613430, 542827, 672985, 295553, 199116, 319724, 567653, 870049, 484567, 447358, 129488, 217304, 644365, 392172, 732006, 605611, 696781, 116837, 427297, 634247, 499749, 573988, 161934, 511446, 793137, 638492, 924657, 482487, 869359, 1584, 1315, 1267, 5236, 1619032, 1076625, 1182028.

The GEM cannot be held responsible for any errors or omissions contained in the above.

For lottery information please telephone 029 2053 2300.

THE VALE OF GLAMORGAN COUNCIL
CYNGOR BRO MORGANNWG

Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act, 1990
Town and Country Planning (Development Management Procedure) (Wales) Order 2012

Development that may affect a Conservation Area/ Datblygu a allai effeithio ar Ardal Gadwraeth

Application No:/ Rhif y cais:	2016/01275/FUL
Proposal:/Cynnig:	Proposed pair of semi-detached 2 bedroom dwellings
Location:/Lleoliad:	Car park, r/o 2, Stanwell Road, Penarth
Conservation Area:/Ardal Gadwraeth	Penarth

Listed Building Consent/ Caniatâd Adeilad Rhestredig

Application No:/ Rhif y cais:	2016/01413/LBC
Proposal:/Cynnig:	Removal and re-instatement of slate roof and lead gully
Location:/Lleoliad:	Kingscombe, Llanmihangel Road, Llanblethian, Cowbridge
Listed Building:/ Adeilad Rhestredig	Grade II

Application No:/ Rhif y cais:	2016/01434/LBC
Proposal:/Cynnig:	Change of use of coach house and cheese house into 4 no. additional holiday accommodation units, demolition of single storey lean-to attached to coach house and replacement with single storey conservatory, and internal and external alterations and associated works
Location:/Lleoliad:	Coach House and Cheese House at Gileston Manor, Gileston Road, Gileston
Listed Building:/ Adeilad Rhestredig	Grade II

Affecting setting of a Listed Building/ Cais (au) sy'n effeithio ar leoliad Adeilad Rhestredig

Application No:/ Rhif y cais:	2016/01425/FUL
Proposal:/Cynnig:	Change of use of coach house and cheese house into 4 no. additional holiday accommodation units, demolition of single storey lean-to attached to coach house and replacement with single storey conservatory, and internal and external alterations and associated works
Location:/Lleoliad:	Coach House and Cheese House at Gileston Manor, Gileston Road, Gileston
Listed Building:/ Adeilad Rhestredig	Affecting the Pigsty, Stable Block, Cheesehouse, the Cross in churchyard of the Church of St. Giles which are all Grade II Listed Buildings. Also affecting Gileston Manor and the Church of St. Giles which are Grade II* Listed Buildings

Details may be inspected for 21 days at the address given below, or via **http://vogonline.planning-register.co.uk/**

Gall manylion eu harchwilio am 21 diwrnod yn y cyfeiriad a roddir isod, neu drwy **http://vogonline.planning-register.co.uk/**

Dated / Dyddiedig: 22 December, 2016

V. L. Robinson
Operational Manager,
Regeneration and Planning,
Vale of Glamorgan Council,
Dock Office, Barry. CF63 4RT

Royal visitor for the Prime Cymru winner

Prince Charles visited the winner of the Prime Cymru Green Business Award, Dave Marchant, at his Coedcae tree business in Pencoed on Friday.

Above and below, the royal visitor in discussion at Coedcae.

Prime Cymru – the Prince's Initiative for Mature Enterprise in Wales – assists people over the age of 50 to start their own business, or find employment.

Prime Cymru's business awards celebrate the work of those who have been supported by the charity.

The Green Award, sponsored by Vale resident Heather Stephen's Waterloo Foundation, was established to recognise those who have worked hard to put sustainability at the core of their business.

Mr Marchant won the award for his work producing trees in harmony with their life cycle, and making logs and furniture from the timber. His business also involves producing electricity for homes with green energy through biomass boilers.

At the Prime Cymru ceremony, at which Mr Marchant received the award, the Prince, who was accompanied by Welsh Secretary Alun Cairns, MP for the Vale of Glamorgan, spoke about the success of investing in businesses such as Coedcae.

He said: "You get an even more successful result from the investment in helping older people to set up their own business.

"Their survivability and sustainability is that much more likely at that age."

Mr Cairns commented: "It was fantastic to see the work of older business people supported by Prime Cymru, particularly Mr Marchant's environmentally-sensitive enterprise.

"I am very grateful to the Vale's Heather Stephens for her Waterloo Foundation's sponsorship of the Green Award."

For more information, visit www.primecymru.co.uk; www.waterloofoundation.org.uk and www.coedcaeservices.co.uk.

Llantwit head of Sony at Pencoed wins top award

ABOVE: Steve Dalton (on far left) is pictured with other business leaders.

MANAGING director of Sony UK Technology Centre (UK TEC), Steven Dalton, who hails from Llantwit Major, has been recognised as one of the UK's most influential individuals in manufacturing at an award ceremony.

From hundreds of nominations from across the manufacturing spectrum, Mr Dalton was included in this year's Manufacturer Top 100 list – one of just two Welsh business leaders who made the list.

He said: "It's always nice to receive recognition for the work we do here at Pencoed.

"I thoroughly enjoyed the event and it was inspiring to be with other manufacturing leaders who I was able to share ideas with.

"At Sony UK TEC, we consistently strive to be innovative – looking at new markets and ways to make us efficient – in order to ensure we have a sustainable future.

Mr Dalton, who heads 40 staff at Pencoed, has steered the business transitioning it from a high volume, low feature operation, to a more sustainable low volume, high-quality and high skilled business model.

He is on the Welsh Government's Industry Wales advisory board, is a non-executive director for FAW, and a governor of the University of South Wales.

CUBS HAD A CHRISTMAS PARTY WITH A DIFFERENCE!

WE had our last Cubs meeting for this year on Tuesday, December 13.

It was a very different Christmas party, as we had the Cubs serving all the families with tea and cakes.

We were very pleased to have as our special guest, the Mayor of Cowbridge with Llanblethian, Coun Liz George, to help us celebrate.

Everyone had a lovely Christmas party, with great games played by all.

The Mayor handed some of our Cubs who are going up to Scouts in the New Year, their Silver awards, and badges they have earned.

We would like to say Happy Christmas and New Year to all who are in the Scout movement, and to everyone who supports us all the year round.

CHRISTINE MALLETT
Cub Scout leader

CAROLS BY CANDLELIGHT

ON Christmas Eve afternoon, families and children are warmly welcomed to Christingle and 'Carols by Candlelight' at the church of Merthyr Dyfan, in Merthyr Dyfan Lane, Colcot, Barry.

Beginning at 2.30pm and lasting for around one hour, this will be an opportunity, particularly for children, to experience the true spirit of Christmas in this ancient church.

It is one of the oldest Christian sites in Wales, believed to date from around 600AD.

The service will be taken by Father Robert Parish and the organist will be Barry-born Father Brian Taylor.

Admission is free. Pedestrian access to the church is by the path that begins at the side of the Barry cemetery gates, cars can be driven down Merthyr Dyfan Lane, access is from Port Road and there is free car parking at the church.

There will be a special welcome to all people who live on the Colcot estate, many of whom may never have visited the church.

On the morning of Christmas Day, carols and sung Mass are at Merthyr Dyfan Church at 8.45am and at St Paul's Church Hall in St Paul's Avenue at 10.15am.

For further information, call Father Robert Parrish, on 01446 735943.

Strolling on the dock of the Bay

THE Last outing of 2016 by the Vale of Glamorgan Ramblers was an enjoyable walk in the Cardiff bay area.

Meeting at The Oystercatcher, the walk was enjoyed by 24 ramblers including two visitors from Singapore who are on an exchange visit to Edinburgh, but were enjoying a break in Wales.

The walk was in an anti-clockwise direction, and although the weather was not as sunny as we would have hoped, the fog afforded us some eerie photographs of the boats moored in the marina and the buildings in the city centre, which seemed to rise out of the fog.

Crossing the barrage is always a pleasant experience, and along the way we were able to learn more about the history of Cardiff docks and the part it played in the expedition led by Captain Scott all those years ago.

Our visitors from Singapore found the history of the area a fascinating topic, and particularly enjoyed a quick look at the Doctor Who Experience as we wandered past!

After a short break in the Bay, the walk continued through the nature reserve with its excellent network of paths that makes the walk accessible to all.

The sculpture which depicts Cader Idris brought back memories for some of the group, who earlier in the year had spent a weekend at Dolgellau and climbed the real thing.

It was amazing to see the developments that have taken place and still continue to do so as we made our way back towards the International Water Centre, before heading back to the start, crossing Pont y Werin. For one of our members it holds special memories as it was a project that he had been involved in.

The post walk drink was enjoyed at The Oystercatcher, and we now look forward to 2017 where there are many more interesting walks waiting for the group to enjoy.

Further information is available on www.valeofglamorganramblers.co.uk and also on our Facebook page.

GWENDA FITZPATRICK

Rhys wins with 'bravura performance'

TWO Llantwit Major Comprehensive pupils, Rhodri and Rhys Richards, recently competed in the annual Young Musician competition run by the Rotary Club.

The Richards brothers, Rhodri and Rhys, both played piano pieces.

Mr John Clarke, one of our governors commented: "Rhys won with a bravura performance (from memory!) of Grieg, Bach and Bartok.

"Had this been 'Strictly Come Dancing' he would have received a standing ovation from the large audience of Cowbridge and Llantwit people. The brothers were a credit to their school." **SB**

Volunteer tells of the special atmosphere at local hospice on Christmas Day

CHRIS Smart has volunteered on Christmas Day for Marie Curie for a decade – but says she never feels that she is 'giving up' her holiday for the charity.

The 60-year-old, who lives in Llandough, is the face of the Marie Curie Cardiff and the Vale Hospice in Penarth every Christmas Day and provides 'service with a smile'.

Chris, who now works in HR but has spent the majority of her working life as a secretary/receptionist, said she felt her life skills lent themselves to the volunteer role, which she has held since 2005.

Marie Curie provides expert care and support to those living with terminal illness and their families all year through.

Its nine hospices across the UK, of which Penarth is one, are open to visitors every hour of the day.

On Christmas Day at the hospice, she says: "There is always a special atmosphere.

"Parents with their children come in to visit family and the children are usually very keen to have a chat and show off their presents."

Chris is full of admiration for the Marie Curie nurses and says: "They are very special people.

"If I can help them just a bit by being at the hospice on Christmas Day then it makes me happy.

"I love volunteering on Christmas Day. It gives me a great sense of achievement and fulfilment.

"I am content in the knowledge that, in a small way, I am contributing towards the hospice on this special day, Chris added."

Youth Trust nets £8,000

CONSTRUCTION charity, Construction Youth Trust (CYT), has netted £8,000 from the Tesco Bags of Help initiative for a project at Barry Community Garden.

The supermarket teamed up with Groundwork on its Bags of Help initiative, which saw grants of £12,000, £10,000 and £8,000 – all raised from the 5p bag tax – being awarded to environmental and greenspace projects.

Tesco shoppers were invited to vote for an organisation to scoop the top grant, with CYT as one of the groups on the shortlist.

Using the £8,000 grant CYT plans to work with young locals in partnership with Newydd Housing Association to build a sensory garden in Barry Community Garden. The project will be delivered in March 2017 where the local young people will learn carpentry skills and construct a seating area for the garden.

The Cottrell Park ladies attend presentation lunch

The ladies presentation and Christmas lunch was attended by 57 Cottrell Park ladies on Thursday, December 8.

The ladies' captain Jeannette Williams welcomed everyone and grace was said by Frances Webber, the oldest member of the club.

Jeannette was presented with the captain's brooch by Helen Poole, past captain. Following a nice meal, Jeannette thanked her committee for their tremendous support during her time in office and all the lady members for their continuing support.

Angela Padfield was thanked for the lovely table decorations. The raffle, a beautiful Christmas hamper, was made up by Alma Davies and won by Helen Evans.

The presentation followed with Margaret Thomas, the competition secretary, announcing the results. She thanked Jen Thomas for her hard work during the year.

GUW Medal, Chris Evans; Cup of Achievement, Lowri Roberts; Macmillan Spoon, Jan Gambling; Dragon Brooch, Helen Evans; LGU Breakthrough Cancer Brooch, Jenny Knott; Golf Foundation Brooch, Andrea Caines; Grandmother's trophy and Pencarrig Cup, Jan Cosby; Llanfair Trophy, Kay Bradbury; Super Seventies Trophy, Marcia Malia; Summer eclectic Mackintosh, Lorraine P. Bell ; Summer eclectic Button, Tina Morgan; Birdie Tree, Kay Bradbury and Par Trophy, Eleanor Lewis.

There were 20 monthly Stableford winners and 12 monthly medal winners.

On a grey misty day a few ladies had ventured out to play before lunch and a nine hole Stableford competition, won by Regina Drew with 13 points.

CB

Seaview Lads Angling Club

THE year has closed with our Christmas competition being fiercely contested.

Fished over two legs, the winner of the first leg was Mike Langford while Glyn Warner took the honours in the second leg.

Gary Mitchell landed the biggest fish on the day, a 4lb eel. The overall winner was Paul Crook with Glyn Warner in second place.

Over both legs eels have made up the weights with a few scraps and hardly any cod – a far cry from the days when massive weights of whiting were dragged to the scales and any cod under 5lb was called a codling!

Overall fishing in 2016 has been below par although some exceptional catches have been landed – just often enough to maintain interest.

The boats have been much the same. Species have included many rays, some nice bass and occasional specimens, especially on trips away from the area.

The travelling fraternity have enjoyed some excellent trips, both in angling and social terms, with trips to Weymouth, Gower, Gran Canaria and Norway ensuring a wide mix of specimens and species.

Other highlights include 'Dib Dib' winning the Burt Peterson Memorial, and Don Cook and Alan Peterson taking top two places in the recent CIU match.

We look to 2017 with high hopes that fishing will pick up along with more of the lads competing for the trophies.

Merry Christmas anglers!

JC

CLYNE'S FOUR-TIMER FOR EVAN!

EVAN WILLIAMS' six-year-old bay gelding Clyne made it four wins in a row when landing the 32Red.Com Handicap Hurdle at fog-bound Haydock Park last Saturday.

Carrying top weight of 11st, 12lbs, the 6-1 chance ridden by Adam Wedge landed the first prize of £12,512 when beating Le Rocher partnered by Lizzie Kelly in a close finish.

Owing to the poor visibility no official times or distances were given but a happy Wedge said: "It was a messy old race but the conditions were safe as we jockeys look out for each other and at the finish my mount stuck his neck out."

ISABEL'S FIRST WIN UNDER RULES

Isabel Williams, aged 19, daughter of Llancarfan's Evan and Catherine Williams, chalked-up her first win under National Hunt rules when landing the Free Spins At 188Bet Casino Amateur Riders' Handicap Hurdle at Exeter last Thursday.

Isabel riding her father's seven-year-old bay gelding AbbeyGrey, which went off the 3-1 favourite in a field of 13 runners, won by two and a quarter lengths from Late Shipment.

Isabel rode a well judged and patient race and she said: "It might take some time to sink in as it's my first winner under rules from four rides. I couldn't be more pleased and relieved all in one go as it matters a lot getting this one on the board."

Her proud and emotional father said: "This horse is more than a character and he wouldn't want to go to the front too soon. I instructed Isabel to be patient and to get him into the race as late as possible and she followed my orders to the letter and rode a perfect race."

Last May at the mud soaked Gelligaer Farmers Hunt Steeplechases, Isabel rode her first point-to-point winner when taking the young horse maiden event on Tenant Farmer.

She's also had a couple of rides on the flat in which she has been placed too, and the odds are that we will be reading a lot more about this promising young rider in the future.

Meanwhile, Evan had more to smile about 24 hours later when his five-year-old De Dollar Man won the BetFred TV Standard Open National Hunt Flat Race at Uttoxeter under stable jockey Paul Moloney.

BRIAN LEE

GORCHYMYN CYNGOR BRO MORGANNWG

(GWAHARDD A CHYFYNGU MANNAU AROS A LLWYTHO A PHARCIO) (GORFODI SIFIL) (DIWYGIAD) (RHIF 1) 2017

1. Hysbysir trwy hyn bod Cyngor Bro Morgannwg, wrth arfer ei bwerau dan Adrannau 1, 2, 3, 4, 32, 35, 45, 46, 53 a 124 a Rhan IV Atodlen 9 Deddf Rheoleiddio Traffig 1984 a Rhan 6 Deddf Rheoli Traffig 2004 a'r holl bwerau galluogi eraill, yn bwriadu gwneud Gorchymyn a fydd yn gosod y man parcio i bobl anabl yn y lleoliad a nodir yn Atodlen 1 a gwaredu'r man parcio i bobl anabl yn y lleoliad a nodir yn Atodlen 2 isod.

2. Mae modd gweld manylion llawn y cynigion yn y cyfeiriad a ddangosir isod yn ystod oriau swyddfa arferol a rhaid cyflwyno unrhyw wrthwynebiadau a allai fod gennych i Gyfarwyddwr Amgylchedd a Thai (Cyf.IF817) yn ysgrifenedig erbyn 20 Ionawr 2017 a rhaid iddynt gynnwys eich rhesymau dros wrthwynebu.

3. Gyda golwg ar Ddeddf Llywodraeth Leol (Mynediad at Wybodaeth) 1985, rhoddir gwybod i bersonau sy'n gwrthwynebu'r Gorchymyn arfaethedig fod y Cyngor hwn gorfod gwneud unrhyw sylwadau a dderbynnir i wrthwynebu'r Gorchymyn arfaethedig ar gael i'r cyhoedd edrych arnynt.

Mae'r Gorchymyn Rheoleiddio Traffig canlynol i gael ei ddiwygio fel a ganlyn:

Gorchymyn Gwahardd a Chyfyngu Mannau Aros a Llwytho a Pharcio (Gorfodi Sifil) 2013

ATODLEN 1

Insert Map of the Proposed Disabled Persons Parking Places

Heol Holltwn, y Barri (AU53)

Ar ochr y de-ddwyrain o bwynt 5.5 metr i'r gogledd-ddwyrain o'r gyffordd â Burlington Street tua'r gogledd-ddwyrain am 6.6 metr.

ATODLEN 2

Insert Map of the Proposed Removal of Disabled Persons Parking Place

Burlington Street, y Barri (AU53)

Ar ochr y gogledd-ddwyrain o bwynt 10.5 metr i'r de-ddwyrain o'r gyffordd â Heol Holltwn tua'r de-ddwyrain am 5.2 metr.

Dyddiedig 22 Rhagfyr 2016

M. E. Punter,
Cyfarwyddwr yr Amgylchedd a Thai,
Cyngor Bro Morgannwg,
Yr Alpau, Gwenfô CF5 6AA.

THE VALE OF GLAMORGAN COUNCIL

(PROHIBITION AND RESTRICTION OF WAITING AND LOADING AND PARKING PLACES) (CIVIL ENFORCEMENT) (AMENDMENT) (NO 1) ORDER 2017

1. Notice is given that the Vale of Glamorgan Council in exercise of its powers under sections1, 2, 3, 4, 32, 35, 45, 46, 53 and 124 and Part IV of Schedule 9 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 and Part 6 of the Traffic Management Act 2004 and of all other enabling powers proposes to make an Order, the general effect of which is to install the disabled persons parking place at the location specified in Schedule 1 and remove the disabled persons parking place at the location specified in Schedule 2 below.

2. Full details of the proposals, may be inspected at the address shown below during normal office hours and any objections you may have to this proposal must be submitted to the Director of Environment & Housing (Ref.IF817) in writing by 20th January 2017 and must contain the grounds upon which you object.

3. Persons objecting to the proposed Order are advised that in view of the Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985 this Council is legally obliged to make any comments received in response to the proposed Order open to public inspection.

The following Traffic Regulation Order is to be amended as follows:

Prohibition and Restriction of Waiting and Loading and Parking Places (Civil Enforcement) Order 2013

SCHEDULE 1

Insert Map of the Proposed Disabled Persons Parking Places

Holton Road, Barry (AU53)

On the south east side from a point approximately 5.5 metres north east of the junction of Burlington Street in a north easterly direction for 6.6 metres.

SCHEDULE 2

Insert Map of the Proposed Removal of Disabled Persons Parking Place

Burlington Street, Barry (AU53)

On its north east side from a point 10.5 metres south east of the junction of Holton Road in a south easterly direction for 5.2 metres.

Dated this 22nd day of December 2016

M. E. Punter,
Director of Environment & Housing
Vale of Glamorgan Council,
The Alps, Wenvoe. CF5 6AA.

GORCHYMYN CYNGOR BRO MORGANNWG

(BROCK STREET, CARUW CLOSE LYDSTEP ROAD Y BARRI (RHAN)) (CAU FFORDD) (DROS DRO) 2016

1. Ar 22 Rhagfyr 2016, gwnaeth Cyngor Bro Morgannwg, wrth arfer ei bwerau dan Adran 14 Deddf Rheoli Traffig Ffyrdd 1984 (fel y'i diwygiwyd) Orchymyn a fydd yn gwneud yr hyn a ddisgrifir yn yr atodlenni isod:

2. Adwaenir y Gorchymyn fel "Gorchymyn Cyngor Bro Morgannwg (Brock Street, Caruw Close Lydstep Road y Barri (Rhan)) (Cau Ffyrdd) (Dros Dro)" 2016.

ATODLEN 1

1. Ni fydd unrhyw berson yn gyrru neu'n gadael i gerbyd deithio yn y lleoliadau a nodir yn Atodlen 2 isod.

ATODLEN 2

Lleoliad	1/Brock Street, y Barri o'r gyffordd â Heol y Bont-faen am 30m i'r gogledd. Bydd gwyriadau ar hyd y rhan o Brock Street, Coldbrook Road a Cowbridge Street a fydd yn parhau i fod ar agor. 2/Caruw Close, y Barri o'r gyffordd â Lydstep Road am 20m i'r gogledd-ddwyrain. Bydd gwyriadau ar gyfer traffig ar hyd ffordd dros dro a gaiff ei hadeiladu wrth ochr y safle gwaith. 3/Bydd Lystep Road, y Barri ar gau rhwng y gyffordd â Redberth Close a Solva Close. Caniateir mynediad i drigolion o un ochr y cau neu'r llall. Bydd gwyriadau ar gyfer traffig ar hyd Collard Crescent, Dyfan Road, Treharne Road, St Brides Way, Ramsey Road, a Skomer Road.
Rheswm	Galluogi gwaith gwella Rheoli Llifogydd Coldbrook.
Hyd	O 7.00am ddydd Mercher 4 Ionawr 2017 am hyd at 18 mis.
DS:	Caniateir mynediad i gerddwyr drwy'r amser.

Dyddiedig 22 Rhagfyr 2016

M. E. Punter,
Cyfarwyddwr yr Amgylchedd a Thai
Cyngor Bro Morgannwg,
The Alps, Gwenfô. CF5 6AA.

THE VALE OF GLAMORGAN COUNCIL

(BROCK STREET, CARUW CLOSE LYDSTEP ROAD BARRY (PART)) (ROAD CLOSURE) (TEMPORARY) ORDER 2016

1. On 22nd December 2016 the Vale of Glamorgan Council in exercise of its powers under Section 14 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 (as amended), made an Order the general effect of which is as described in the schedules below:

2. The Order will be known as "The Vale of Glamorgan Council (Brock Street, Caruw Close Lydstep Road Barry (Part)) (Road Closure) (Temporary) Order" 2016.

SCHEDULE 1

1. No person shall cause or permit a motor vehicle to proceed in the locations specified in Schedule 2 below.

SCHEDULE 2

Location	1/Brock Street, Barry from its junction with Cowbridge Road for adistance of 30m in a northerly direction. Diversions via the remaining open section of Brock street, Coldbrook Road and Cowbridge Street. 2/Caruw Close, Barry from its junction with Lydstep Road for a distance of 20m in a north easterly direction. Diversions for traffic will be available via a temporary road that will be constructed to the side of the work area. 3/Lydstep Road, Barry will be closed between its junctions with Redberth Close and Solva Close, access for residents will be maintained from one side of the closure or the other. Diversions for traffic will be in place via Collard Crescent, Dyfan Road, Treharne Road, St Brides Way, Ramsey Road, and Skomer Road.
Reason	To allow Coldbrook Flood Management improvement works to take place.
Duration	From 7.00am on Wednesday 4th January 2017 for a maximum period of 18 Months.
NB:	Pedestrian access will be maintained at all times.

Dated this 22nd day of December 2016

M. E. Punter,
Director of Environment & Housing
Vale of Glamorgan Council,
The Alps, Wenvoe. CF5 6AA.

Vale of Glamorgan Football League news

IN the final round of fixtures until the new year, it was another exciting weekend for Vale football.

St Athan's title aspirations took a serious hit as they crashed to a 2-1 defeat to in-form Rhoose, Rhoose notching their fourth league win on the bounce.

The only other result in the Premier Division saw Island Marine get back to winning ways with a 4-0 win over bottom side Masons Moving Group. Masons still without a point this season after nine games.

In Division One, league leaders Barry Athletic B routed Glenbrook 8-1 - the result sees Athletic B go three points clear at the top although second place Barry Belgrade have two games in hand.

Third placed FC Pumas lost ground at the top as they were stunned 4-0 by Cadoxton Barry and fourth place SP Billy were held 3-3 by Cardiff Airport, the result lifting Airport off the bottom on goal difference.

Dockers continued their good form and made it five games without a loss as they shocked fifth place Cogan Coronation 6-1.

Cogan's inconsistent season continuing, that's two wins and two defeats in their last four.

Another inconsistent side is Sully, they stayed sixth with a 5-3 win over Cadoxton Athletic.

With the top four so close together, and if Cogan and Sully could find consistent form, with Dockers on a good run, Division One could be wide open in the second half of the season.

In Division Two, Cadoxton Imps' undefeated run is over as Penarth Town B impressively dispatched them 4-2.

Imps' first loss in 14 games, they remain four points clear at the top, Penarth B meanwhile find themselves edging into the title race as they are three points behind second with a game in hand.

That team in second Barry Saints won a ten goal thriller 6-4 over Rhoose B and will be smelling blood in their pursuit of top spot.

Finally, Island Marine B made it a good day for the club as they won 2-0 against Barry Albion B to go within a point of fourth with a game in hand.

The league now takes a Christmas break and will return on January, weather permitting of course. All in the Vale league wish you a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

HD

Honourable draw for the Bridgend Sports under-11s

BRIDGEND SPORTS under-11s hosted Nantyffyllon in a pool fixture for their final game of 2016; Nanty had secured a 25-15 victory in the fixture at Maesteg Park at the end of October.

While it is the time for Christmas spirit, a tough competitive fixture was anticipated between the two teams but both sides agreed for player changes at 10 minute periods to ensure all players had equal game time.

Nanty won the toss and opted to kick off. The Sports with a large squad of 20 on the day showed early attacking intent, Dylan Morgan fielded the ball from the kick off ran and passed to Meg Lewis who made ground before passing to Mackenzie Dent and then onto wing Iestyn John who was held up.

Nanty conceded a penalty, this allowed the Sports to sustain the early pressure. Opting to move the ball back to Iestyn John he switched play to the opposite touch line then passed to Cian John and Dylan Morgan who put Tom Chick into half a metre of space.

With his pace he made no mistake as he raced down the wing to score.

With both sides showing an ambition to move the ball, it didn't take Nantyffyllon long to hit back. They were initially contained within their half but Leo Quinn saw an opportunity to beat a defender and then in acres of space, he accelerated away to bring the scores level.

Nantyffyllon then injected some pace into their game to mount and sustain several attacks on the Sports line.

They were kept at bay by some solid defending and counter rucking, which eventually saw the home side steal possession and then mount several attacks of their own varying play with Jack Short, Mackenzie Dent and Meg Lewis taking the direct route and then utilising the more subtle handling skills of the backs: Cian John,

Harri Williams, Dylan Morgan, Tom Chick and Iestyn John were always looking to create space. Their reward came when Tom Coles made a break before passing to Dylan Morgan who put Tom Chick away for him to claim his second try and the Sports to lead 10-5 at the first break.

The Sports made nine changes for the second period. The changes disrupted their rhythm of play and gave an eager Nantyffyllon side the opportunity to exploit some gaps.

It was, however, the Sports who scored first to extend their lead, as Jodie Keane, Callum Lewis and Dewi Worrall combined to release Joel Rogers who made no mistake in extending the home side's lead to 15-5, before Nanty used their pace effectively, particularly from the set piece moving the ball quickly.

They used this to good effect to run in four unanswered tries, with Josh Cooke claiming the first, Joe Quigley the next two and Leo Quinn the final try of the half for Nanty to turn around 25-15 in front.

In previous matches between the two sides, the Sports players would not have had the confidence to fight back against such a strong side. The young players are however developing and growing in confidence. They have strength in numbers and they took the game to their opponents in the third period to force the away team into errors with good first up defence.

Mason Balmer and Meg Lewis then combined to take the Sports over the gain line but Nantyffyllon secured possession from the ruck, opted to kick long which was fielded by Sports Tom Chick; he looked up and backed himself to race in for a score from 30 metres out.

Meg Lewis scored a well-earned try as she drove through the Nanty defence in the middle of the field for the next try to bring the scores all square at 25-25 going into the final quarter.

In the final quarter, both sides moved the ball through the hands well. Morgan Liddle edged the away team in front when he snapped up a loose Sports pass and sprinted away to score.

The Sports hit back again as Chloe Gant passed to Mackenzie Dent who broke the line, Tyler Burton and Ieuan Pilliner kept the Sports going forward before the backs combined with Cian John, Callum Lewis and Dylan Morgan making ground to force Nantyffyllon to concede a penalty deep in their half.

The Sports took it quickly, for Mackenzie Dent to break through to claim the final try.

It was a game that started with plenty of Christmas spirit and the spice got added, which resulted in both teams heading off into the Christmas break, sharing the spoils at 30-30.

***Squad**: Callum Lewis; Chloe Gant; Cian John; Dewi Worall; Dylan Morgan; Harri Edmunds; Harri Williams; Iestyn John; Ieuan Pilliner; Jack Short; Jodie Keane; Joel Rogers; Mackenzie Dent; Mason Balmer; Megan Lewis; Thomas Chick; Thomas Coles; Tyler Burton; Tyron Davies; Will Ellis.* **SP**

CYNGOR BRO MORGANNWG
(CEMETERY ROAD, (RHAN) Y BARRI) GORCHYMYN (CAU FFORDD) (DROS DRO) 2017

1. Ar 22 Rhagfyr 2016, gwnaeth Cyngor Bro Morgannwg, wrth arfer ei bwerau dan Adran 14 Deddf Rheoli Traffig Ffyrdd 1984 (fel y'i diwygiwyd) Orchymyn a fydd yn gwneud yr hyn a ddisgrifir yn yr atodlenni isod:

2. Adwaenir y Gorchymyn fel "Gorchymyn (Cemetery Road, (Rhan)Y Barri (Cau Ffyrdd) (Dros Dro)" 2017.

ATODLEN 1

1. Ni fydd unrhyw berson yn gyrru neu adael i gerbyd deithio yn y lleoliad a nodir yn Atodlen 2 isod.

ATODLEN 2

Lleoliad	Bydd Cemetery Road, Y Barri ar gau rhwng ei gyffyrdd â Barry Road a St Teilo Avenue.
Rheswm	Er mwyn caniatáu gwaith adeiladu i fynd rhagddo ar gyfer y parc newydd yn Cemetery Road ynghyd â gwelliannau ffyrdd.
Hyd	O 07.30 ar Ddydd Mawrth 3 Ionawr 2017 am uchafswm cyfnod o 18 mis. (Rhagwelir y bydd y gwaith wedi ei gwblhau erbyn 16.30 ar Ddydd Gwener 21 Ebrill 2017 (a bod y tywydd yn caniatáu))
Llwybr Amgen	Bydd gwyriadau lleol ag arwyddion ar gyfer traffig a cherddwyr ar waith ar Barry Road a St Teilo Avenue yn ystod y cau hwn.
D.S.:	NI ELLIR caniatáu mynediad i gerddwyr yn ystod y cyfnod hwn.

Dyddiedig 22 Rhagfyr 2016

M. E. Punter,
Cyfarwyddwr yr Amgylchedd a Thai
Cyngor Bro Morgannwg,
The Alps, Gwenfô. CF5 6AA.

THE VALE OF GLAMORGAN COUNCIL
(CEMETERY ROAD, BARRY PART)) (ROAD CLOSURE) (TEMPORARY) ORDER 2017

1. On 22nd December 2016 the Vale of Glamorgan Council in exercise of its powers under Section 14 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 (as amended), made an Order the general effect of which is as described in the schedules below:

2. The Order will be known as "The Vale of Glamorgan Council (Cemetery Road, Barry (Part)) (Road Closure) (Temporary) Order" 2017.

SCHEDULE 1

1. No person shall cause or permit a motor vehicle to proceed in the location specified in Schedule 2 below.

SCHEDULE 2

Location	Cemetery Road, Barry will be closed between its junctions with Barry Road and St Teilo Avenue.
Reason	To allow for construction works for the new Cemetery Road Park and road improvements to take place.
Duration	From 07.30Hrs on Tuesday 3rd January 2017 for a maximum period of 18 months. (It is anticipated that the works will be completed by 16.30Hrs on Friday 21st April 2017, (weather permitting))
Alt. Route	Signed local diversions for traffic and pedestrians shall be in place via Barry Road and St Teilo Avenue during this closure.
NB:	Pedestrian access CANNOT be maintained during this closure.

Dated this 22nd day of December 2016

M. E. Punter,
Director of Environment & Housing
Vale of Glamorgan Council,
The Alps, Wenvoe. CF5 6AA

GORCHYMYN CYNGOR BRO MORGANNWG
(LLWYBR CYHOEDDUS SANT NICOLAS Rhif 5) (CAU DROS DRO) 2016

Mae Cyngor Bro Morgannwg, wrth arfer ei bwerau dan Adran 14 Deddf Rheoleiddio Traffig Ffyrdd 1984 (fel y'i diwygiwyd) yn bwriadu, mewn dim llai na saith diwrnod o ddyddiad yr Hysbysiad hwn, wneud Gorchymyn a fydd yn gwneud yr hyn a ddisgrifir yn yr atodlenni isod:-

ATODLEN 1

1. Ni fydd unrhyw un yn cerdded ar y lleoliadau a nodir yn Atodlen 2 isod.

ATODLEN 2

Lleoliad	Bydd Llwybr Cyhoeddus Sant Nicolas Rhif 5 yn cau o'r pwynt y mae'r llwybr yn cwrdd â'r A48 ar bwynt cyfeirnod grid 309364 174402 ac yn parhau tua'r gogledd hyd at bwynt cyfeirnod grid 309364 174526.
Llwybr Arall	Yn ystod y cyfnod cau, bydd ffordd arall ar hyd llwybr troed dros dro ar gael i'r dwyrain o'r llwybr troed hwn. Bydd y gwyr iad dros dro yn dilyn ymyl yr A48 at y cae y mae mynediad iddo ym mhwynt cyfeirnod grid 309429 174431.
Rheswm	Cynnal diogelwch cyhoeddus yn ystod cyfnod y gwaith adeiladu.
Hyd	O 7.00am ddydd Llun 9 Ionawr 2017 tan 23.59 nos Sul 9 Gorffennaf 2017.

Dyddiedig 22 Rhagfyr 2016

M. E. Punter,
Cyfarwyddwr yr Amgylchedd a Thai
Cyngor Bro Morgannwg,
The Alps, Gwenfô. CF5 6AA.

THE VALE OF GLAMORGAN COUNCIL
(ST NICHOLAS PUBLIC FOOTPATH No.5) (TEMPORARY CLOSURE) ORDER 2016

The Vale of Glamorgan Council in exercise of its powers under Section 14 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 (as amended), intends in not less than seven days from the date of this Notice to make an Order the general effect of which is as described in the schedules below: -

SCHEDULE 1

1. No person shall proceed on foot in the locations specified in Schedule 2 below.

SCHEDULE 2

Location	St Nicholas Public Footpath No 5, shall be closed from the point this path meets the A48 at grid 309364 174402, and continuing in a northerly direction to grid 309364 174526.
Alt. Route	During this closure a diversion via a temporary footpath to the east of this footpath will be available. This temporary diversion shall follow the verge of the A48 to the field access at grid 309429 174431.
Reason	To maintain public safety during construction works.
Duration	From 7.00am on Monday 9th January 2017 until 23.59pm on Sunday 9th July 2017.

Dated this 22nd day of December 2016

M. E. Punter,
Director of Environment & Housing
Vale of Glamorgan Council,
The Alps, Wenvoe. CF5 6AA.

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Porthcawl win top of the table encounter

Ross Parsons bursts through the Bridgend Sports defence. Picture by Tracey Williams.

THIS top-of-the-table clash between Bridgend Sports and Porthcawl was always going to be a closely fought affair and so it turned out to be as the Seaweeds snatched it at the death, winning 19-16.

On a miserable but dry afternoon, with both sides hungry for rugby, put everything into the match but Porthcawl drew first blood when Josh White kicked an early penalty, despite slipping as he connected and the ball bouncing over off the upright, for 0-3.

Minutes later he popped over another simpler kick as Sports gave away a soft penalty, 30 metres out for 0-6.

Sports were having the better of the territory and when full-back Josh Davies pulled it back with a penalty of his own and 3-6, as Porthcawl fell offside at the breakdown.

The heavy pitch was already proving difficult to negotiate at times but to their credit both sides kept hammering away in turn, with the packs especially well-matched.

White's third penalty stretched it to 3-9 yet back came Davies with his second goal from fully 42 metres and 6-9 to keep up the hunt.

The Seaweeds managed a crucial score just before the break as the Sports lost control of the ball while trying to break through and Leon McNally hacked the ball on for Porthcawl, for his team-mate wing Jake Thomas to grab the touchdown and the first try.

White's brilliant conversion out of the mud wide out on the left made it 6-16 at half-time.

Sports drew the first blood in the second half as they capitalised on some good driving play with Davies again slotting the penalty for 9-16 as Porthcawl's Mattie Davies saw a yellow card as Sport sniffed blood.

Indeed, when Sports did what Porthcawl did before the break, hacking through the loose ball for the try after White had his intended clearance kick charged down, converted by Davies, at 16-16 the match really could have gone either way, with the light fading badly in the descending gloom.

It was close to the end of the match, with some 10 minutes of injury time played, that White became villain-turned-hero, as his pack surged forward with a final flourish and earned the penalty.

As he stepped up, he again lost his footing but the ball sailed between the sticks to grab the winning points, as Sports supporters groaned in anguish at the decision.

This was a well-contested and often compelling match, which was a credit to both sides, clearly the two best sides in the division currently.

Porthcawl can look forward to four home matches during January, when they could capitalise on gathering valuable points, starting with the visit of Glyncorrwg on January 7.

PF

Porthcawl Bridge Club news

THE festive season started with members dressing-up in their finery for a most enjoyable Christmas party.

Following an excellent meal (catered by Jane Morgan), we played 18 hands of bridge for the Barrie Robinson Salver. In a split tie, this was won by Keith Davison and Roger Plant.

This was followed on Thursday with a dress-down Christmas pudding night, with the insistence that players had to wear suitable Christmas attire or face a 'fine'.

Peter Jenkins was let-off for his effort of a hand-made Christmas card pinned to his shirt pocket!

A 'pair of puddings' were won by Pat and Gary.

Saturday, December 10, First East/West – winners of the Barrie Robinson Salver – Keith Davison and Roger Plant; First equal North/South – Pat Roper and John Cobby; Dil and Marian Evans.

Thursday, November 24, First – Pat Haworth and Gary Williams; Second – John Beard and Tony Haworth.

Over the festive season, the club will close after the game on Thursday, December 22 and restart on January 7.

The club meets twice a week – Saturday and Thursday at the Awel-y-Mor centre, 6.45pm - 9.45pm, visitors welcome at any time.

To contact the club, call our secretary, Trish, on 01656 785794.

TH

Pencoed RFC rugby round-up

The far more experienced home pack of Tondu was the main difference between the sides in this Division 2 West Central match at Pandy Park, resulting in three penalty tries from the dominant Tondu eight.

Hywel Davies had given them a third minute lead driving through from a close up lineout.

Josh Tatchell added four conversions and a penalty goal for the league leaders.

For Pencoed Adam Williams kicked a penalty goal and added a try following good work at the breakdown from youth flanker Jack Thompson.

The positives for Pencoed were good performances from youth players Dan Watkins, Jacob Lloyd and Thompson, however Pencoed will be disappointed with a performance punctuated with four yellow cards.

Next up for Pencoed is the annual festive period game against Heol-y-Cyw on December 26, 11am kick-off at the Recreation Ground.

CARMARTHEN QUINS UNDER-15 GIRLS 10, PENCOED PHOENIX UNDER-15 GIRLS 32

The first fixture between the clubs this season ended with Phoenix running out comfortable winners.

Phoenix coach Micky Dixon commented this was a good all-round team performance with the backs handling particularly well.

A plucky home side competed well throughout. Phoenix inside half Evette Evans got a try hat trick, centre Sarah Veysey added a brace with number 8 Jaya White also crossing the whitewash.

Debutantes Alexandra Wall and Erin Smith both did well in a Phoenix side that has now gone eight matches without defeat.

Phoenix squad numbers continue to grow and they will continue to play friendlies with the possibility of a tournament at the end of the season.

Hooker Taylor Briggs is now training with the Ospreys under-18s squad, the first emergent Phoenix under-15 player to do so.

In the under-18s, the Phoenix were 36-19 winners over Carmarthen Quins.

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Latest Data available

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(Figures correct as of April 2016)

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LATEST NEWSPAPER SALES FIGURES!

The GEM	45,489	Priceless
Barry & District News	3,929	Paid 50p
Penarth Times	4,132	Paid 50p
South Wales Echo	19,158	Paid 65p
Western Mail	18,641	Paid 80p
Glamorgan Gazette	9,094	Paid 90p
Wales on Sunday	14,789	Paid £1.50

The GEM's weekly figure includes door to door delivery and numerous popular outlets from Penarth to Porthcawl

Latest Data available

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(Figures correct as of April 2016)

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Family Notices

LEWIS
Quentin John

Peacefully on December 11 at home with the presence of his family, Quentin John, aged 72 years, of Barry, previously of Merthyr. Retired police officer. Dearly loved husband of Jean Mary.

Quentin will be sadly missed by all of his family and friends.

Resting at A.G. Adams & Son Funeral Home, Gladstone Road, Barry, until the funeral on Thursday, December 29. Service in the chapel at 11.15am, afterwards cremation at Coychurch Crematorium 1.15pm. No flowers by request, if desired, donations may be handed to the funeral director after the funeral for RBL and RNLI Barry Branch.

GARLAND
Delphine

Peacefully at Llandough Hospital on December 18. Loving wife of the late Cyril, mum of Ruth and Bret, mother-in-law of Mike and Bev, nan of Stephen, Laura, Tom and Daniel and their partners Katie and Chris, nain of Elloise, Macy and Faye, loving sister of Fay.

Resting at A.G. Adams & Son Funeral Care, Gladstone Road, Barry, until her funeral service at Holy Trinity Presbyterian Church, Trinity Street, Barry on Wednesday, January 4, 2017 at 11am, followed by cremation at The Cardiff & Glamorgan Crematorium, Barry at 12 noon. Flowers may be sent to the funeral home.

MUSTOW
Barbara

Peacefully at home, Barbara, loving wife of Cec, loving mother of Kelvin and wife Wendy. Grandmother to Dewi and Ieuan.

Will be sadly missed by all family and friends. God bless.

Funeral service at St Mary's Church, Bonvilston on Friday, December 30 at 12.30pm, followed by cremation at Coychurch Crematorium. Flowers may be sent to Thomas Brothers, Greengate, Ewenny Road, St Brides Major, CF32 0SB or donations, if desired, to Marie Curie Hospice, Bridgeman Road, Penarth, CF64 3YR.

REED
Lilian (Née Brown)

Peacefully on December 8 at the University Hospital of Wales, Lilian, aged 102 years, beloved wife to the late Ivor, loving mum of Pam. Much loved nan of Russell.

She will be dearly missed by all who knew and loved her.

Resting at The Vale Funeral Service, 181 Court Road, Barry until a celebration of her life at Mount Pleasant Church, Cadoxton, Barry on Friday, January 6 at 11am, followed by interment at Barry Cemetery. Family flowers only. Family request black attire optional.

COBOURNE
Mary

Sadly Mary died on Friday, 16th December 2016 at 'Y Bwthyn Newydd', Princess of Wales Hospital, Bridgend. She now joins her husband, David, who died earlier this year.

She is loved and will be missed by her children, grandchild, great grandchildren and family.

The funeral will be held at 2.15pm on Tuesday, 10th January 2017 at Coychurch Crematorium, Bridgend. Family and close friends only please. No flowers, but donations if you wish to either Cancer Research UK or Macmillan Cancer Support.

BROWN
Peter

Peacefully on December 16 at Marie Curie Hospice, Penarth. Peter, beloved husband to Eunice, a loving dad of Shaun, Lynne, Beverley and Ceri. Respected father-in-law of Stephen and Dean. A cherished grand pop to James, Leigh, Nicholas, Kelly and his six great grandchildren. Also a special brother to Linda.

Peter will be greatly missed by all his extending family including in-laws, nieces and nephews whom he loved so dearly.

Peter is in the care of Lyndsay Ellis @ The Vale Funeral Service, 181 Court Road, Barry until his service at Cardiff & Glamorgan Crematorium, Barry on Tuesday, January 3 at 2pm.

Family floral tributes only. Donations, if desired, may be made at the service or via Peter's online tribute page at www.valefuneralservice.co.uk where you are also welcome to leave your personal messages and memories. All donations to support Marie Curie Hospice in memory of Peter.

MOTTON
May

Peacefully at Llandough Hospital with family on 11th December. May, wife of the late Viv. Beloved mother of Jayne, Anne, Vivienne, Claire and Darren. Much loved grandmother of Emlyn and Alicia and great-grandmother of Isabella.

She will be sadly missed by all the family.

The angels came to see you and they've taken you away. To say we're going to miss you is more than words can say.

Gone to join Viv.

Resting at Penarth Funeral Directors, Hickman Road Funeral Home until the service at Holy Nativity Church, Penarth on Wednesday, 4th January at 1.45pm, followed by committal at Cardiff & Glamorgan Crematorium, Barry.

Family flowers only. Donations, if desired, for the British Heart foundation can be placed in the tray at the Church exit.

DAVIES
Joan Maureen

The passing of Joan is announced with great regret. For 33 years she endured the hardship of Parkinson's Disease. Joan passed away on 12th December whilst in the care of the dedicated staff of College Fields Nursing Home. Let her be an inspiration to us all. Heaven will be a better place.

Beloved wife of Michael, mother of Joanne and Neil. Much loved grandmother of Sophie, Louis and Freya and mother-in-law of Dawn and Boofy.

Resting at Robert D Johnson Funeral Directors, 29 Holton Road Barry until her funeral service on 30th December at Barry Cemetery Chapel at 11am, followed by internment at 11.30am.

Family flowers only by request please.

Donations may be made in memory of Joan at the service or sent to the funeral director for the Parkinson's Disease Society.

Informal dress please, no dark colours. Enquiries please ring 01446 733844.

In Memory

MOUNTGOMERY
Jordan

To our Darling Grandson Jordan

Always thinking of you
Love Always
Nan & Gramps (Crout) xxx

ADAMSON
Jamie

25.12.98 - 20.01.04

Happy 18th birthday Jamie Darling

The years have passed,
but our memories remain deep in our hearts

Love you forever, Nan and Papa *xx*

ADAMSON
Jamie

25.12.98 - 20.01.04

This Christmas Day you become a man
Still my little boy and brother to Sam
Now you're an uncle (something that's new)
One more person to love and miss you

Love always, Dad, Sam, Denise and family xxx

Wishing everyone who has supported and continues to support Jamie's charity (Jamfund.co.uk) a very Merry Christmas 2016.

BIRD
Eric Osborne

23.12.2014

To the world you are one person,
But to one person you are the world.
Always in my heart and on my mind

Love Always, Judy

In Memory

JONES
Dilys

23/12/2015

There are no words that can say how much you're missed.

Lots of love always,
Chris, Joanne, Stacey, Natasha, Curtis, Kayden & Marshal xxx

Craig Orchard

19/07/84 - 25/12/15

This is our first Christmas without you Son.
It will not be the same.
Every day without you is like Summer without sunshine and Winter without rain.
We'll search for you among the stars that shine on Christmas night.

In loving memory of our special Son and Brother, Craig, who we will forever cherish in our hearts.

All our Love
Mum, Dad, Bobo & Rhian,
your family & friends
xxx

ROGER BEECHEY

Thank you for all the Christmases shared together

Love Frances

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Seasons Greetings

Val Gatt
— CHRISTMAS WISHES —
to all my friends, relatives and neighbours.
Donations in lieu of cards to Tenovus and Cancer Research.

Howard & Marilyn Hellyar
Would like to wish family and friends a very
Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year

Peggie Merrett
sends all her family and friends best wishes for Christmas and 2017.

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Seasons Greetings

Chris and John Boucheron
Would like to wish all friends and family a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.
A donation will be made to the Stroke Association in lieu of Christmas cards.

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Public Notice

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Notice is hereby given, pursuant to section 27 of the Trustee Act 1925, that all the Creditors, Members and others having any claim against or claim to be beneficially interested in the assets of the Zeon Chemicals Europe Limited Pension Scheme are required to send particulars in writing to the Trustees of the Scheme, c/o Quantum Advisory, Cypress House, Pascal Close, St Mellons, Cardiff, CF3 0LW, no later than 1 March 2017.

After this date, the Trustees will proceed to distribute the remaining assets of the Scheme among the persons entitled to them, and will have regard only to the claims of which they then have notice. The Trustees shall not be liable to any person of whose claims or demands they then have not had notice. Any individuals who have already been contacted on behalf of the Trustees about this matter need not respond to this notice as the Trustees already have details of their claims and entitlements.

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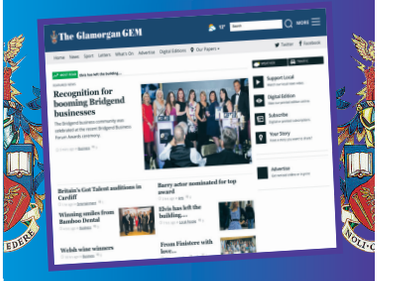

The Glamorgan GEM
www.glamorgan-gem.co.uk

Rugby derby draws a bumper crowd

LEFT and RIGHT: Llantwit Major RFC hosted rivals Cowbridge RFC in a derby clash last weekend. Cowbridge took the spoils with a 26-5 victory.

IMAGES by ANDY WICKS

Island Marine under-10s thank their sponsors

ISLAND MARINE FC under-10s would like to extend their thanks to Champions Lifting and Safety Ltd from Barry, who have provided the team's new playing kit, and have now sponsored the team for over five years.

The boys are enjoying another great season and the coaches would like to thank to all the players for their team spirit and enthusiasm, and also to all the parents and family members for their continued support in all weather, win or lose!

NO

Bridge results

RESULTS from the Vale of Glamorgan bridge club for December 19:

Results of the Claret Jug competition 2016 (handicapped competition) - winners Amy Owen & John Moore 55.30%, 2nd Elaine & Alan Robins 54.73%, 3rd Anne Hughes & Trish Roe 54.36%.

Congratulations to Amy and John!

Please note we will be having normal club night bridge on Monday, January 2.

LE(sec)

TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING ACT 1990

NOTICE IS HERBY GIVEN THAT AN INSPECTOR APPOINTED BY THE WELSH MINISTERS

UNDER PARAGRAPH 1(1) OF SCHEDULE 6 TO THE TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING ACT 1990

TO DETERMINE THE APPEAL

WILL ATTEND AT

THE VALE OF GLAMORGAN COUNCIL OFFICES, DOCKS OFFICES, BARRY DOCKS, BARRY, CF63 4RT

ON

10 & 11 JANUARY 2017 AT 10.00.

TO HOLD A LOCAL INQUIRY INTO THE APPEAL BY MR GERALD KEEN AGAINST THE ENFORCEMENT NOTICE ISSUED BY THE VALE OF GLAMORGAN COUNCIL RELATING TO AN ALLEGED BREACH OF PLANNING CONTROL, NAMELY THE MAKING OF A MATERIAL CHANGE OF USE OF THE LAND AT HENDREWENNOL FRUIT GARDEN, HEOL-Y-MARCH, WELSH ST DONATS, CF5 6TS FROM AGRICULTURAL TO A MIXED USE FOR AGRICULTURAL AND LEISURE/RECREATION AND THE CONSTRUCTION OF A BUILDING

ISABEL NETHELL AUTHORISED BY THE WELSH MINISTERS

DEDDF CYNLLUNIO GWLAD A THREF 1990

HYSBYSIR TRWY HYN Y BYDD ARCHWILYDD WEDI'I BENODI GAN WEINIDOGION CYMRU

DAN BARAGRAFF 1(1) ATODLEN 6 DEDDF CYNLLUNIO GWLAD A THREF 1990

I BENDERFYNU AR YR APÊL

YN BRESENNOL YN

SWYDDFEYDD CYNGOR BRO MORGANNWG, SWYDDFEYDD Y DOCIAU, DOCIAU'R BARRI, Y BARRI, CF63 4RT

AR

10 A 11 IONAWR 2017 AM 10.00.

I GYNNAL YMCHWILIAD LLEOL I'R APÊL GAN MR GERALD KEEN YN ERBYN YR HYSBYSIAD GORFODI A GYHOEDDWYD GAN GYNGOR BRO MORGANNWG MEWN PERTHYNAS Â THORIAD HONEDIG O REOLAU CYNLLUNIO, SEF NEWID DEFNYDD O DIR YNG NGARDD FFRWYTHAU HENDREWENNOL, HEOL-Y-MARCH, LLANDDUNWYD, CF5 6TS O AMAETHYDDOL I DDEFNYDD CYMYSG AR GYFER AMAETHYDDIAETH A HAMDDEN AC ADEILADU ADEILAD

ISABEL NETHEL WEDI'I HAWDURDODI GAN WEINIDOGION CYMRU

Cowbridge under-14s' improved performance

THERE was plenty of Christmas cheer for players and supporters at Llantwit Major this weekend, with the under-14s registering an impressive 12-55 win over their opposition.

Right from the off, Cowbridge played with determination.

Jack Riley moved the ball swiftly to Charlie Locke at outside half, then brought in strong running centre Ioan Davies, who fed the ball to full-back Harry Whitcher. His jinking run brought him a well-finished try under the posts.

The next try followed with again some good back play, resulting in Luke Gregory picking up close to the line and using his strength to batter over.

Llantwit Major hit back from the kick-off, and in fairness secured a length-of-the-field try, which brought them back into the game.

Just before half time, some good forward pressure with David Harris, Lucas Reid and Dewi Decaux made the hard yards; Will Clarke drove powerfully over the line.

In fact, it was the first of four tries from Will, all powerhouse drives from close range which the opposition struggled to cope with.

Cowbridge pressure continued in the second half with Jack Riley taking a quick tap, feeding no 8 Dave Harris, who sold a cheeky dummy to enable him to cross the line.

Llantwit then lost a player due to injury and went down to 14 men, which magnanimously was met with Cowbridge dropping to 14 players (the home side regrettably had no subs).

Llantwit fought back with a well-deserved try.

Luke Gregory and Ioan Davies both responded, scoring under the posts for Cowbridge shortly after.

The final try of the match came from James Gilvear with a 40 -metre sprint for the line down the wing, with defenders unable to get close.

Luke Gregory kicked five conversions, which was a boost to the scoreline.

This was a much improved performance from Cowbridge, fielding a full squad with everyone playing a part in a well-deserved, comprehensive victory.

The match was played in good spirit, and was enjoyable to watch.

Llantwit put up a staunch defence but were, in fairness, limited with available players, which is a shame for such a long-established and well-regarded club.

However, Cowbridge under-14s will feel justifiably happy with their performance.

Merry Christmas and happy New Year – let's keep it going in 2017.

TD

PG10 and Vale Sports Arena's Christmas gifts

CHILDREN and young people from PG10 Coaching and the Vale Sports Arena recently got in the Christmas spirit.

The children have been busy collecting boots and kit to donate to children in Sierra Leone, Gambia and toys to the Teenage Cancer Trust

Peter Griffiths of PG10 Coaching said: "Christmas is a time of giving and it is important that children know how lucky they are and give to other children living in severe poverty.

"Africa is close to my heart after football coaching in Sierra Leone; it was a humbling experience so it's important that our players have shown this gesture."

Catherine Sharp of the Vale Sports Arena said "The children have either bought or donated their toys to children recovering in the Teenage Cancer Units and is a fantastic christmas story. We encourage all our staff and volunteers to support communities and projects within."

The Vale Sports Arena is encouraging charities to put applications forward to be the arena's official charity for 2017.

Vale Sports Arena is committed to making a difference in the local community and support charities and not for profit organisations. Events will be arranged throughout the year to help raise money for good causes and community projects.

To submit your interest please email petegriff10@hotmail.co.uk and state why your charity should be the arena charity of 2017.

PG

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Ladies storm the Castle with a truly gr-eight victory!

GOING into this fixture against Caerphilly Castle, Barry Town United Ladies had a great chance to finish 2016 top of the Women's Welsh League.

This was set to be an emotional affair with Barry's stalwart Robyn Hall making her last appearance for the club before leaving to pursue a career in the army from January.

The game started off with Barry controlling possession with numerous chances going begging. Some wasteful finishing and a visiting goalkeeper in fine form thwarted the home side.

The breakthrough finally came late in the first half, and as so many times this season, it was the in-form Hungarian striker Luca Laky who opened the scoring.

Almost immediately from the restart, player coach Stacey Ayling added to her season's tally with a thunderous effort from 30 yards to put Barry 2-0 up at the break.

The second half followed a similar pattern to the first with Barry controlling the majority of possession but this time they were more ruthless in firing in another six goals.

Robyn Hall presented with a signed shirt with captain Stevie Cook and club secretary, Gino Esposito.

Captain Stevie Cook continued to lead by example and scored two excellent goals from distance taking her tally to almost double figures for the season which is a great effort from midfield.

Laky continued to cause havoc for the Caerphilly defence and completed another fine hat-trick.

Her development in a year since joining the club has been outstanding and her link up play and eye for goal is proving a major force in Barry's rise up the league table.

Substitute Emily Hill grabbed a goal late on and make an excellent contribution from the bench.

Finally, to put the icing on the cake, Robyn Hall just had to score to complete a memorable day to finish off proceedings at 8-0.

Hall was presented with a signed shirt by the players and coaching staff after the game which was a parting gift for a player always welcome back in the future.

LW

The Barry and District Ladies Skittle League

LATEST results for the Barry and District Ladies Skittle League for week commencing December 5 are as follows:

First division: SV Gals (T Warner 34) 327, Barry Stars (C Lambeth 29) 291; Pila Palas E Dyke 34) 323, Coppers (J Hartnell 35) 337; Family and Friends (S Brown 24) 241, Colcot Ladies (P Johnson 24) 210; Bakers Dozen (A Haines 31) 231, Alsorts (H James 25) 250; Space Finders (K Jackson 36) 325, Bobby's Girls (S Seldon 31) 294; Special Angels (T Jones 24) 228, Family Affair (N Jones 28) 251.

Second division: Castle Bandits (E Evans 25) 216, Witchill Widows (L Spyrou, M Curry, A Doel Davies, E Cornwell 22) 212, Roller Coasters (J Marriott 23) 216, Rhoose Starlights (P Tucknutt 27) 21, Cad Con Fillies (S Chilcott 26) 230, Airways Angels (E Lewis 22) 227; Breakaways (J Dawkins 33) 319, SV Lights (A Bird 35) 326; Clickies (K Watts 34) 305, Castaways (M Winder 31) 301.

Third division: Little Devils (D Weston 24) 230, CHallengers (J Jones, A Richards, D Dimond 27) 255; Rebels (SW Collier 27) 215, S V Ladies (S Holden 25) 234; Rugby Triers (S Blakemoore 29) 250, Twilights (C Brown 29) 249; Hill Billies (C Whymanh 33) 302, Etcetera (M Mathews 29) 289; La-Belles (C Knight 36) 341, Dolly Mixtures (L Marsh 30) 307; Westenders (J Somers 25) 224, Witches (C Kemp 26) 259.

Fourth division: Nite Outers (K Stillman 24) 224, Aristocats (M Moore, M Rogers, B Tamlyn 20) 182; Off The Rails (K Green, L Stephenson 27) 265, Guardian Angels (D Ling 32) 247; Persuaders (K Kemp 3) 234, Odd Bods (T Perry 23) 165; Liberals (S Derry 28) 259, Hell Raisers (M Davies 29) 252; Living On A Spare (M Pring, S Townsend 32) 317, Witchill Wanderers (C Reynolds, C Morrissey, V Kerslake 30) 274.

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Maesteg student Jasmine a judo triple gold winner

Ioan Harris, Scott Pearce and Jasmine Hacker-Jones.

STUDENTS from Cardiff and Vale College have swept the board at the recent Welsh Closed Judo Championships.

Jasmine Hacker, a 16-year-old level 3 sport student from Maesteg, won gold medals in three different weight categories – Cadet under-52kg, Junior under-52kg and Junior under-57kg. She also won the silver medal in the Senior under-57kg category as well.

"It was really good – I really enjoyed it," Jasmine said. "I've been taking part in judo since I was four and would like to go on to it professionally and do coaching. My course will help me with my future career."

Jasmine has also won gold at the British Championships and Commonwealth Tournament as well as a silver in the UK School Games. She is ranked number one in Wales in the 52kg Cadet category and is placed 10th in the UK.

Scott Pearce, 17, from Cardiff won double gold in Junior under-66kg and Senior under-66kg. Scott is a five-times Welsh champion, is number one in Wales for under-21s in his weight category and was graded second in the UK until he moved into a new age bracket this year – he is now eighth in the UK.

Ioan Harris is also studying A-Levels at CAVC, in maths and physical education. The 16-year-old from Maesteg is also a five-times Welsh champion in his category and this year won silver in the British Championships and bronze in the Schools Games.

"I feel like it's been a year of great achievements," Ioan said. "I could have done a bit more but you're always going to feel like that. The course I'm doing at the college will help me with my career, as I would like become a professional and a coach."

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63 FORD Fiesta 1.5 TDCi Zetec 3-Dr In black, 56,000 miles. 1 owner, free road tax **£6,995**

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LOOKING BACK AT THE 2003 WELSH GRAND NATIONAL

BINDAREE, the 2002 Martel Grand National winner, ridden by former Welsh point-to-point rider Carl Llewellyn from Pembrokeshire, was successful in this year's renewal, writes BRIAN LEE.

Heavy rain throughout the race made things difficult for the 14 horses and riders who had faced the starter. Even so all 14 were in touch at halfway with Bindaree leading the field.

Six fences from home Sir Rembrant, partnered by Andrew Thornton, moved up to challenge but a mistake at the next obstacle didn't do him any favours. Five fences from the finish Hedgehunter,Take The Stand, King Mistral and Akarus were all in with some sort of a chance.

However, when Kings Mistral and Akarus both fell at the fourth last fence the race developed into a dual between Bindaree and Sir Rembrandt, and in an exciting finish Bindaree won by just half-a-length.

Winning trainer Nigel Twiston-Davies who hails from Crickhowell said: "It is great to win this race because Carl and I are both Welsh."

And in winning this year's race, Carl Llewellyn had become the first Welshman to be successful since Dick Francis, also from Pembrokeshire, had won on Crudwell in 1956.

While Bindaree emulated his former stable-mate Earth Summit by completing the Aintree Grand national and Welsh Grand National double.

Brian Lee is the author of The Welsh Grand National from Deerstalker to Emperor's Choice published by The History Press at £14.99.

The Welsh Grand National takes place at Chepstow Racecourse on December 27.

Two defeats for Barry Chess Club

JUST the two matches this week, and both ended with defeat for Barry by the identical margin of 3-2.

In division 1 the Barry Bosons played the Pontypridd Barbarians. On the face of it we would have expected a close match but for the second year running Pontypridd ended up with a narrow victory.

Rhys Steele played his third match in eight days and recorded his third victory.

Steve Cunliffe mainmtained his unbeaten record this season with his sixth draw from nine matches. Matthew Parry also earned a draw.

This result leaves the Bosons in sixth place having played a match more than the four teams below us. However our relegation rivals all have a match to play which ironically is against one another.

When these results are in it is almost inevitable that the Bosons will be in the bottom three.

We have now played nine matches so have reaches the halfway point of the season; a half term report would most certainly say 'must do better'.

In division 4 the Barry Gambits hosted a match against promotion rivals the Rhondda Spitfires.

In this case we were outgraded on all boards. This is fairly normal for the Gambits. We managed four good draws from the five boards. The other board should probably have been drawn as well.

This result drops us down to fifth place, only half a point behind second place but the teams in both second and third place have a tough game in hand.

Hopefully the Pontypridd Thirds and Bridgend D sides can do us a favour and take a big victory against the two north Cardiff sides, the Panthers and the Ravens respectively.

The Barry Chess Club meets at 7.30 pm each Monday at the West End Club. St. Nicholas Road, Barry CF62 6QY.

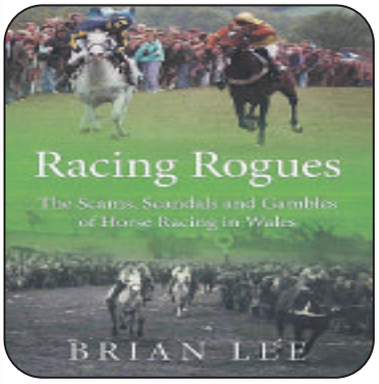
The club is open to players of all standards; whether you are interested in playing competitive chess or just the occasional friendly games.

New players are very welcome to just turn up on the night but if you contact one of the club members through the website we can explain what is happening on the night you have in mind, and arrange for someone to greet you on your arrival.

For more details, visit the website at http://barrychessclub.yolasite.com.

Phil Jones

Tales of the Racing Rogues!



GEM columnist Brian Lee's new book *Racing Rogues - The Scams, Scandals and Gambles of Horse Racing in Wales* (published by St David's Press at £13.99) contains a number of stories which originate in the Vale.

For instance, there is the story of how Llancarfan trainer Evan Williams helped his neighbour Jane Mathias pull off a nice little betting coup when her horse Lesdream won at Stratford, after being backed from 20-1 to 8-1.

There is also the astounding story of Am I Blue's controversial win at Hereford. Am I Blue was trained by leading Arabian horse trainer Delyth Thomas at Aberkenfig and as one racing reporter put it: "There was outrage in some quarters, amusement in others."

Some Glamorgan GEM readers will recall what was described as 'A Monster Gamble' at the Ystrad Taf Fechan Hunt Steeplechases at Ystradowen in 2002 when Nearly Noble bolted home in the open maiden race after being backed from 16-1 to off the boards.

Also included is the sad tale of a number of people living in the Vale who were robbed of many thousands of pounds by a woman who was described as 'a deluded, manipulative and thoroughly evil woman' who had shown no remorse.

Judge Graham Cottle said: "To call her a confidence trickster was far too generous a description, and went on to say "You befriended and targeted vulnerable people in a thoroughly cold and calculating fashion and plundered their life savings. You have left a trail of financial devastation for your victims."

Some of the stories should bring a chuckle or two: one example being of the Cefn Cribwr farmer who was fined £100 by the Jockey Club for rubbing a dab of Vick on his horse's nose.

Another funny story being about the time owners at a flapping (unlicensed) meeting got together to fix a three horse race so that the 10-1 outsider would win.

However, the bookmakers smelled a rat and as the horses were going down to the start the bookies were screaming and shouting, *"No race! No race!"* - but all to no avail.

There's also the story about a point-to-pointer which was qualified with the Glamorgan Hunt and which won their members' race and several other races besides under the name of Up The Spout.

In reality Up The Spout was another horse called John French which had run under Jockey Club rules on the flat.

One of the biggest gambling coups that has ever been pulled off at a point-to-point was when a horse called Dead Or Alive, trained by Abbi Vaughan, wife of Aberthin National Hunt trainer Tim Vaughan, and ridden by Cowbridge's Dean Coleman, won at the Flint and Denbigh meeting at Bangor-on-Dee in March 2009; the full story is told here for the first time.

Other stories include the elaborate switching of horses and the cutting of the telegraph wires at Bath races in 1953, which saw well-known Cardiff bookmaker Gomer Charles jailed for two years for fraud after his syndicate placed £100k worth of bets on a ringer racehorse.

Also the Oyster Maid affair, when a great gambling coup engineered at Tenby races in 1927 nearly put paid to horse racing in Wales; and was said by the Queen Mother's jockey, Dick Francis, to have been "...the most bitterly resented betting coup that National Hunt racing has ever known."

With a foreword by author Robert King and an interesting introduction by former Western Mail racing editor Brian Radford, this well-illustrated book will not only appeal to horse racing fans but also to readers of true crime.

Nicole (12) serves up a silver Salver!

The Sue Thomas Salver is presented every year to the junior who has made the most progress or achievement in the past year at Dinas Powys Tennis Club.

This year, Margaret Hayley was delighted to announce that the prestigious award had been won by Nicole Kells.

Nicole has just turned 12, so her achievements were recorded when she was just 11.

This was combined with time spent in commuting from London to Cardiff for the first half of the year, which was a substantial handicap, making her achievements even more remarkable.

She is now living in Penarth and is well settled in Stanwell school. This will enable her to further develop her talents to the benefit of our club and her school.

She won the South Wales Road to Wimbledon area final for those under the age of 14.

This enabled her to go to London to play in the national final. She has represented Wales under-12s, beating both the Scottish and Irish number ones in the Tri Nation event held at Cardiff Castle.

At club level she is the club champion at both the under-13 and under-16 age groups; in the under-18 age group she lost in the final to Libby Smith.

Margaret said she was sure her mother would have approved of Nicole being a most deserving recipient.

NW

Champagne Trot for ladies

Jan Gambling with Jeannette Williams, ladies' captain,

ON Thursday, December 15, which was a damp old day, the ladies of Cottrell Park competed in the Champagne Trot!

It was a 12-hole Stableford competition, won by Jan Gambling with a very good 24 points; second Carole Duncanson 20 points; and Mary Watkins third with 19 points, on the back nine from Helen Ruttley and Helen Evans.

Following the presentation, the ladies all joined in singing Christmas carols. ***CB***

BARRY & DISTRICT LEAGUE TABLES AND RESULTS

CRIB DIVISION 1:

West End 8, Wyndham Cons 7; Moors Boys 7, Liberals 8.

League table: Liberals 100, Rhoose Social 85, Wyndham Cons 82, West End Runaways 80, Moors Boys 79, West End 74, Cadoxton Cons 70.

SKITTLES DIVISION 1:

Sea View B 7, Rhoosters 0; King William XII 6, Rhoose Social B 1; Slammers 2, Liberals C 5; Rhoose Social C 2, Rhoose Social A 5; West End D 6, Cambrian Flyers 1; Liberals A 2, Rugby Club 5; Barries Boys 1, West End C 6.

League table: West End D 56.5, King William XII 54.5, West End C 52, Allsorts 42, Rhoose Social B 42, Sea View B 41, Rugby Club 38.5, Rhoose Social C 36, Barries Boys 35.5, Rhoosters 35, Rhoose Social A 34.5, Liberals C 32.5, Slammers 32.5, Cambrian Flyers 27, Liberals A 21.5.

SNOOKER DIVISION 1:

Savoy A 1, Harbour B 4; Penarth Cons A 2, Cadoxton Cons Z 3; Rhoose Social B 3, Cadoxton Cons B 2; Penarth Cons B 3, Rhoose Social C 2; West End C 2, Wyndham Cons A 3.

League table: Harbour B 49, Savoy A 46, Cadoxton Cons Z 41, Cadoxton Cons B 31, Wyndham Cons A 29, Rhoose Social B 28, Penarth Cons A 26, Services Social B 23, West End C 22, Rhoose Social C 21, Penarth Cons B 19.

SNOOKER DIVISION 2:

HarbourA 1, Liberators 4; Cadoxton Cons A 5, West End A 0; West End B 3, Sully Sports A 2; Market Street C 2, Savoy B 3; Wyndham Cons D 3, Market Street B 2.

League table: Liberators 43, Savoy B 40, Market Street B 36, Cadoxton Cons A 35, Wyndham Cons C 34, Harbour A 33, Market Street C 31, Wyndham Cons D 24, Sully Sports A 24, West End B 23, West End A 22 (* = points deducted).

All league and cup fixtures and results at www.barryleagues.co.uk, and on Facebook - search for 'barry leagues'.

JW

The Vale of Glamorgan Pool League

CAPTAIN Ceri Morris lead his team from the front for Billy United in this much anticipated top of the table clash against the Witchill.

The Witchill took an early lead, but they were soon pegged back by a majestic frame from captain Morris. The cue ball looked as though it was on a piece of string, as Ceri broke off and then faultlessly cleared up with one visit to the table, earning himself a 8-ball trophy in the process.

The Billy hardly put a foot wrong all night with Farrugia and Ross Taylor shining, but the stand out player was Mark Ingram, who was to go on and win both his singles matches and win his doubles with Ross Jones to win this match comfortably 8-2, a great result for Billy United.

Over at Bar Cocoa it was business as usual for Cocopops with Mile Dunn coming out player of the match. The Borough, playing Cocopops for the second time this season, knew they had their work cut out against a team with a lot of skill and experience - needless to say the Borough were proven right with a 8-2 defeat.

At the Tadross Hotel, new captain Sean Kelly led his team against Finnegans.

In a very friendly, but competitive, atmosphere the games were all closely competed. Finnegans took a strong 5-3 lead, but the Tadross were able to pull it back and finish the night with a very respectable 5-5 draw.

This Thursday's highlight is Billy v Cocopops in the first round of the Nine Point Cup.

The league would like to wish all players Nadolig Llawen and a happy new year.

We are still looking for players of all capabilities to join, compete and have fun - please contact us by text on 07870 498738 or email us at valeofglamorganpoolleague@gmail.com.

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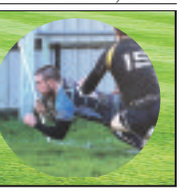
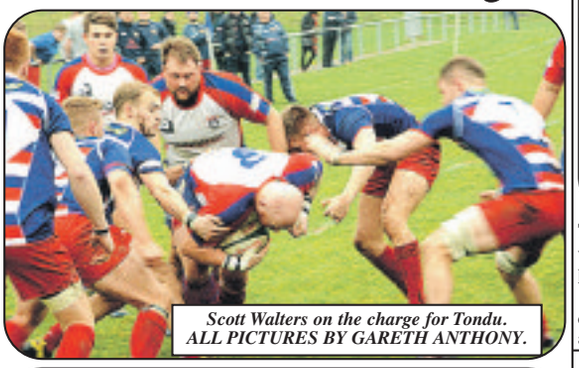


Tondu edge Pencoed in local derby



Scott Walters on the charge for Tondu. ALL PICTURES BY GARETH ANTHONY.

Gareth Lindenburn and Lloyd Tucker.

THIS local derby (and top of the table clash) got off to a sizzling start for Tondu when second row and captain Hywel Davies took the ball at the first lineout to steam over for a third minute try.

Josh Tatchell added the conversion from the touchline to make it 7 - 0.

Pencoed outside-half Adam Williams reduced the lead with a sixth minute penalty before a rampant Tondu scrum produced a penalty try for the home side, Tatchell again adding the extra points.

Tatchell then kicked a penalty for Tondu before No 10 Adam Williams slashed the lead again with a run down the left for a well taken try, the half-time score Tondu 17, Pencoed 8.

The second half began with the Tondu eight in rampant mood and after a number of penalties the referee was left with no option but to award Tondu their second penalty try; Tatchell kicked the conversion.

It came as no surprise when the visitors called for passive scrums, but with the Tondu eight now somewhat neutralized the game became a little disjointed.

Nevertheless it did not stop referee Steve Nash securing his hat-trick by awarding Tondu a third penalty try after continuous infringements from the visitors in the red zone.

A good win for Tondu over their neighbours and team manager Rob Dyke said: "We saw a great performance from the forwards that created the platform for a great bonus point win to keep us in the hunt over Christmas."

MS

Bridgend Bridge Club news

THE Western Area Teams of Eight Championships were held in Tumble at the weekend and ably directed by David Lea.

The Bridgend team was captained by Tony Disley, playing with Simon Richards, and the other pairs were Kevin Maddox and Mike Best, Tony Haworth and John Beard, and John Evans and Steve Burgoyne.

Bridgend won, scoring 76.72 victory points, with Swansea second on 64.69 and Llanelli third on 52.59, so Bridgend are the area champions and have qualified for the national finals.

Many congratulations on a fantastic performance.

RECENT RESULTS

The results for recent events at Bridgend Bridge Club are:

Wednesday, December 14: First, Linda Pinnock and Bill Turner; second: John Beard and Liam Sheridan; third, Steve Burgoyn. The winners on handicap were Linda Pinnock and Bill Turner.

Thursday, December 15: First: John Evans and Stuart Davies; joint second: Geoff and Christine Tinkler; joint second: Maggie and Richard Ashpole; third: David Newman and Teresa Griffiths. The winners on handicap were John Evans and Stuart Davies.

Friday, December 16: First: Norma and David Newman; second: Vida Halford and Glyn Williams; third: Irene Wickham and Mari Jones. The winners on handicap were Irene Wickham and Mari Jones.

Regular club nights take place on Wednesday and Friday evenings at Nolton Church Hall. Play is scheduled to begin at 7pm, so it helps if players arrive at least 10 minutes early.

On Thursday afternoons at 2pm, also at Nolton Church Hall there is a gentle bridge session.

Master points are awarded, but it remains a relaxed occasion where players enjoy their bridge.

TG

SOUTHERNDOWN'S GOLFING LADIES GET INTO THE FESTIVE SPIRIT!

THE ladies of Southerndown Golf Club had their weekly hi/lo competition this week where high handicappers play with more experienced players.

At this time of year the annual Christmas fancy dress competition is also held, where the ladies decorate their golf carts and themselves.

There was a great turnout and many festive jumpers were on show.

Beryl Vaughan won the best costume as Santa Claus and in the golf competition Bethan Parker and Helen Loo were first, Shirley Lewis and Chris James were second and Mary Evans and Janet Booth came a commendable third.

LJ

Bridgend Athletic end the year with win over Kenfig Hill RFC

ABOVE: Dan James crosses for the Athletic's first try, while RIGHT: Stuart Floyd-Ellis and Sam Richard look to build an attack. ALL PICTURES BY GLENNSPORTS

BRIDGEND ATHLETIC won their final game of 2016 by 24 points to 15 in a hard-fought derby at the Croft Goch headquarters of Kenfig Hill.

Two inspirational tries from youth scrum half Dan James and 14 points from the reliable boot of youth team centre Stuart Floyd-Ellis set up the victory.

Playing down the slope the Mules had the better of the opening exchanges and went ahead after only five minutes of play.

They drove the Athletic back from a five metre scrum for captain and scrum half Tom Briggs to cross for the opening try. Apart from a breakout by wing Garin Lougher the Athletic struggled in the opening stages against the fired up Mules.

The Athletic gradually fought their way back into the game. Hooker Nathan Holman found flanker Ben Howe with a 30 metre out line out throw.

The Athletic captain set up a driving maul.

Scrum half Dan James received the ball and spotting a gap with the Mule's flankers tied in to the maul sped away and crossed in the corner to level the scores. Outside half Harrison Evans restored the home side's lead with a 30-metre penalty.

The referee had warned both sides about the number of penalties they were conceding and Kenfig Hill paid the price when their lock infringed 15 metres out in front of their posts and was sent to the bin.

Surprisingly in a tight game with few chances the Athletic opted for a scrum rather than an easy three point penalty on offer.

Despite pushing the Mules back they picked up the ball and were caught conceding their own penalty which allowed the home side to clear. With the Mules restored to 15 players it was the Athletic's time to find themselves a man short with their own yellow card.

Despite a player disadvantage the Athletic opened up play and a break on halfway from centre Stuart Floyd-Ellis was carried on as co-centre Michael Hathaway, outside half Sam Richards, full back Dan Howells and Chris Price handled in the move up to the 22.

When play was halted, prop Zach Evans won the ball on the floor and James picked up and broke clear to chip over the full back to win the race to touch down under the posts for another solo try. Floyd-Ellis converted to give the Athletic a 12-8 half-time lead.

Early in the second half Floyd-Ellis extended the Athletic lead to 15-8 with a 35 metre penalty won from a driving maul.

This only served to inspire a fight back by the Mules and they camped inside the Athletic 22 with hooker Gareth Harvey leading a number of drives towards the try line.

Only inspired defence with the back row of man of the match Stuart Edbrook, Ben Howe and Johnny Howard prominent kept the Mules out.

However, the pressure told and the Athletic were again reduced to 14 men with another yellow card. Kenfig Hill took advantage and moved the ball from a scrum for centre Shaun Burnell to cross. Harrison Evans conversion levelled the scores.

With 20 minutes remaining the Mules back line was caught offside and Floyd-Ellis punished them with a well struck penalty from 45 metres out.

The Athletic brought on prop Wayne Fooks and youth flanker Luke Williams. Fooks, along with fellow prop Matt Muir and hooker Nathan Holman, established superiority at the set scrums and locks Griff Davis and Jonathan Stoker carried strongly to keep Kenfig Hill pinned back in their own half.

When the home side infringed to stop a significant Athletic driving maul they were forced to play out the final nine minutes a man short with their lock in the sin bin. Floyd-Ellis increased the lead to 21-15 with the resultant penalty.

With the final move of the game Kenfig Hill desperately tried to play the ball inside their own 22 conceding a penalty for holding on in a tackle.

The Athletic youngster Floyd-Ellis claimed a 14 point match haul with his fourth penalty to add to his conversion.

Athletic team manager Paul Hearne commented: "It was a hard-fought game between two evenly matched sides which we were glad to win. It was good to play Kenfig Hill again and we were grateful that their hospitality off the field matched the rivalry on it.

"At this level, it is what the game of rugby should be about. We look forward to reciprocate when hosting the Mules in the return fixture."

The Athletic now have a seasonal break before visiting table topping Bonymaen on January 7. The Swansea Valley side will be smarting following the Athletic gaining a bonus point victory over them in the opening match of the season.

AB